連載開始から3年……。
同時期に乗り始めた
ロードバイクが
ようやく最近楽しく
感じるようになりました

著者 すたひろ

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HIGANSOU 10YEARS AGO SOUSUKE & TAEKO

おたくの娘さん

第七集

【OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN】

著 すたひろ

DRAGON COMICS AGE

おたくの娘さん 第七集 【OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN】 著 すたひろ
HIGANSOU 10YEARS AGO SOUSUKE & TAEKO

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突然父親になったオタク警部　鮮太とその娘　叶。
病室に共同生活を続けていた二人だったが、
ある日鮮太が、部屋に残されていた管理人さんと
デートに行ったところで叶との関係がギクシャクしてしまう。
そんな二人を見た先生が、二人をやり直させるためにと贈りだした贈品。
その鮮太と叶の関係に過ぎるところでもあるというか、
先生と管理人さん、その二人と10年前起こった出来事とは!?
『おたくの娘さん』最大の転回が明らかになる、衝撃と激動の第七集!!

DRAGON COMICS AGE
おたくの娘さん 第七集 【OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN】 著 すたひろ
HIGANSOU 10YEARS AGO SOUSUKE & TAEKO

????????
???????
?????

HIGANSOU YOUKAI NO
SOUSHIE TACHI
おたくの娘さん
第七集
【OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN】
著すたひろ
DRAGON COMICS AGE

DRAGON COMICS AGE

OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN VOL.7 stu-HiRo

OTAKU NO MUSUME-SAN VOL.7 stu-HiRo

富士見書房

Chapter 35
A STORY ABOUT YOU AND THE LANDLADY FROM 10 YEARS AGO...
IT'S A BIT LONG, BUT I WANT YOU TO LISTEN.
UH, JUST HOW LONG IS IT?
HMM IF I ONLY HAD ABOUT 32 PAGES A MONTH
I'D SAY FOUR TO FIVE MONTHS WORTH
I-I SEE THAT IS LONG
YEAH IF IT WAS MY OWN WORK I'D WORRY ABOUT GETTING TIRED OF IT
IT'S TROUBLE-SOME, ISN'T IT
YES. IT IS

Chapter 38 - Old Story #1

When Asou Jotaro Was There

第三十八話 昔語り❶

～麻生城太郎のいた時代～

THE STORY OF HIGANSOU, FROM A WINTER 10 YEARS AGO...

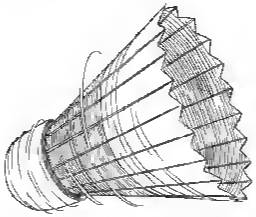
森田 宗助
103
SIGN: MORITA SOUSUKE
AT THIS TIME, I, MORITA SOU-SUKE,
HAD RUN OUT OF STEAM.

MY DEBUT WAS DECIDED THROUGH A REFERRAL BY THE AUTHOR UNDER WHOM I WORKED.
AFTER THAT, I WORKED AS AN ASSISTANT FOR 6 YEARS TO GATHER EXPERIENCE, AND THEN MADE MY DEBUT AS A MANGA AUTHOR AT AGE 26.
WHEN I WAS 20, I MOVED TO TOKYO FROM INUYAMA TO BECOME A MANGA AUTHOR.
MY DREAM AT THAT TIME WAS TO BECOME A MANGA AUTHOR WHO DREW COMICS GEARED TOWARD YOUNG BOYS THAT WOULD INSPIRE THEM.
Yuki Matsuba
PEACH
IT WAS THE KIND OF JOB THAT GOT LABELED AS "EROTIC MANGA".
BUT THAT TYPE CREATED A LARGE PROBLEM FOR MY DREAM.
BUT I HAD NO PASSION FOR THAT JOB, AND IT WAS OF NO VALUE TO ME.
WITH NO HOPE OF MAKING A NAME FOR YOURSELF, YOU WERE ALWAYS LUMPED TOGETHER WITH THE LOW END AUTHORS.
BUT I COULDN'T ABANDON THAT MAGAZINE, BECAUSE I COULD SUBMIT IT AS PROOF OF MY ABILITY TO MEET DEADLINES. THAT WAS MY ONLY STRONG POINT.
AT THAT TIME, I WAS IN SUCH A HURRY TO START MY CAREER, I DIDN'T PUT MUCH EFFORT INTO CHOOSING A JOB.
I DECEIVED MY CURRENT SITUATION, BECAUSE I THOUGHT AS LONG AS I COULD BECOME INDEPENDENT, IT'D BE FINE.

I, OF COURSE, STILL HAD THAT DREAM.
BUT I COULDN'T MOVE ON WITH THAT ALONE.
A JOB WORKING AS THE MANGA AUTHOR I ALWAYS WANTED TO BE.
AND SINCE MY WORK WAS SERIALIZED, I COULDN'T TAKE A BREAK.
FAILURE TO SUBMIT SO MUCH AS A SINGLE PANEL TO THE MAGAZINE THAT HAD CONFIDENCE IN YOU MEANT LOSING YOUR JOB
DRAWING TO SUBMIT JUST ONE COPY A MONTH WAS FAIRLY DIFFICULT.
IN MY CURRENT POSITION, I WAS BARELY MAKING A LIVING.
SURELY NOTHING WILL COME OUT OF IT.
NO, IT'S JUST AN ESCAPE...
YOU CAN'T MOVE ON WITH SIMPLY DETERMINATION.
SOME PEOPLE WOULD SAY YOU COULD SAVE MONEY LITTLE BY LITTLE AS YOU DREW...
BUT WORKING FOR A LIVING BY YOURSELF IS DIFFICULT.
IT WOULD HAVE BEEN NICE IF I COULD HAVE RELIED ON THE MAGAZINE TO GUARANTEE MY DEBUT.
BUT THERE WAS NO SUCH THING.

IF SOMETHING WOULD JUST HAPPEN, MAYBE I COULD CHANGE...
UUH
KNOCK, KNOCK
SENSEI!
!
IF ONLY I HAD SOMETHING...
トントントン
UUH... UGH...
SENSEI!
'SENSEI', HUH?
トントン
THOUGH I'D HAVE PREFERRED IT IF HE HADN'T DONE THAT.
ガチャ
I'LL BE RIGHT THERE!
THAT'S THE NICKNAME NICCHI-KUN GAVE ME...

OH, HELLO, TAE-CHAN. HOW ARE YOU?
SENSEI IS GRANDPA HERE?
JOTARO-SAN? HE HASN'T COME BY TODAY, BUT...
SINCE IT'S THURSDAY, HE SHOULD AT SOME POINT.
SINCE HE'LL PROBABLY VISIT, WHY DON'T YOU WAIT IN MY ROOM--
H-HOW ABOUT WE PLAY OUTSIDE? HA, HA HA...
?
!?
UWOH!
RIGHT NOW, THE MANGA I'M WORKING ON IS SCATTERED ALL OVER MY ROOM.
IT'S DEFINITELY NOT SOMETHING I CAN SHOW TO A KID.



I'M OK.
I GUESS KIDS ARE MEANT FOR THE OUTDOORS
TAE-CHAN, AREN'T YOU COLD DRESSED LIKE THAT? IT'S FEBRUARY.

AT THAT TIME, SHE WAS POPULAR WITH EVERYONE AT HIGANSOU BECAUSE OF HER CUTENESS.
INCIDENTLY, BACK THEN HIGANSOU WAS STILL CONSIDERED A NORMAL APARTMENT BUILDING, SINCE I WAS REALLY THE ONLY OTAKU LIVING THERE.

ASO TAE-KO.
TAE-CHAN IS THE GRANDDAUGHTER OF THIS APARTMENT BUILDING'S LANDLORD, AND CURRENTLY A 3RD YEAR IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL.
SHE LIVES WITH HER GRANDFATHER IN A HOUSE NOT TOO FAR FROM HERE.
SHE WOULD OFTEN COME HERE TO VISIT, SINCE HER GRANDFATHER CONSTANTLY STOPS BY THIS PLACE.

?
GRANDPA!
!?

JOTARO-SAN, AREN'T YOU COLD DRESSED LIKE THAT? IT'S FEBRUARY.
NOT AT ALL!
MAYBE IT'S NOT KIDS, BUT FAMILY-RELATED?
OHH, TAEKO! SO YOU CAME TO VISIT, HUH?
GRANDPA!
YEAH, I SUDDENLY FELT LIKE DOING ONE. I OVERTOOK MY OPPONENTS IN ONE ROUND.
AH! THAT EQUIPMENT, DID YOU JUST COME BACK FROM A SURVIVAL GAME?
UUH. IT'S TRUE I SENSED SOMEONE TRYING TO CALL OUT TO ME.
I WANTED TO DO IT, 'CAUSE YOU HADN'T CONTACTED ME FOR A WHILE.
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
I DID, BUT YOU NEVER RESP-ONDED!
WHAA? WHY DIDN'T YOU INVITE ME!?

KAKAKA!
WHAA? I WANNA PLAY HIDE AND SEEK WITH ADULTS TOO!
AH, WELL...
IT'S KIND OF LIKE HIDE AND SEEK FOR ADULTS.
GRANDPA, WHAT'S A SURVIVAL GAME?
THEN HOW ABOUT PLAYING WITH ME, TAE-CHAN? ♡
NICCHI, NOOO!
スウウウ...
...OKAY.
HOLD THIS, SOU-SUKE.

JOTARO
WIN

KID'S IDEAS OF ADULT FUN ARE RIDICULOUS!
REST IN PEACE.
REST IN PEACE, NICCHI-KUN...

I'M SURE YOU'RE ALREADY FAMILIAR WITH HIROMI-SAN, BUT DID I MENTION THAT HE'S A JANITOR IN HIGH SCHOOL DRAMA THIS TIME?
HE'S NOT A RESIDENT OF THIS PLACE YET, BUT AN ACQUAINTANCE OF HIS LIVES NEARLESS SO HE OFTEN COMES TO VISIT.
HE SPENT A LIFETIME CREATING SOME LARGE COMPANY AND MADE A NAME FOR HIMSELF, BUT I DON'T KNOW MUCH ABOUT IT.
THIS LIVELY OLD MAN HERE IS THE LANDLORD OF HIGANSOU AND THE CHAIRMAN'S GRANDFATHER AS WELL.
.....
AT THIS TIME, HE'S ALREADY LEFT THE COMPANY TO HIS SONS, AND NOW COMFORTABLY ENJOYS RETIREMENT.
AT THIS AGE, HE'S TAKEN IN INTEREST IN ALL SORTS OF TWISTED HOBBIES, LIKE SURVIVAL GAMES.
WE HAVE QUITE A DIFFERENCE IN AGE, BUT SINCE WE'RE BOTH OTAKU, WE BECAME FRIENDS VERY QUICKLY.

HONESTLY, YOU'RE SO HOPELESS, CHIHIRO-KUN.
オォォン

HUH?
? ? ? ?
...TAE-CHAN. IF YOU DON'T BECOME BIG, LET'S GET MARRIED.
THAT'S THE ONE ASPECT OF HIM THAT I CHOSE TO IGNORE.

UWAH! NAGATO-SAN! WHERE DID YOU COME FROM!?
YOU'RE SO RUDE, SOUSUKE. I'VE BEEN HERE THE WHOLE TIME.
WELCOME BACK, FATHER!!
!
OH! THERE'S MY BELOVED FAMILY!
HOW WAS THE HUNT?
FU, FU, FU, IT WAS A TOTAL VICTORY!
JOTARO HUNG IN THERE 'TIL THE VERY END, BUT I GOT HIM!
NAGATO HAD MOVED IN WITH HIS FAMILY TO ROOM 203.
HE'S A NOVELIST AND TECHNICALLY IN THE SAME BUSINESS AS MYSELF.
SOMETIMES, HIS PRESENCE IS COMPLETELY UNNOTICABLE, AND HE'S RUMORED TO BE A MASTER AT HIDING.

I'll be going now
HONESTLY, SOMETIMES HIS STEALTH IS TOO MUCH FOR ME.
HE SUDDENLY APPEARED BEFORE MY EYES, AND SHOT ME.
THAT'S RARE. YOU ACTUALLY LOST?
THIS "TAKE-CHAN" IS ANOTHER OLD MAN WHO TRAINED ALONGSIDE JOTARO-SAN. TRULY A MACHO PAIR OF GUYS
WAS IT JUST YOU THREE HUNTING?
NO, TAKE-CHAN WAS THERE TOO.
BUT LATELY, HE'S BEEN INTERESTED IN HIS GRAND-CHILD, SO HE LEFT EARLY.
DID YOU GET HURT, GRANDPA?
GAHAHA!! AS IF I COULD BE WOUNDED!
I DOUBT EVEN REAL BULLETS COULD HURT ME!
KNOWING HIM, IT'S POSSIBLE...
!?
GRANDPA, ARE YOU GOING TO FORGET ME?
THAT DEMON'S GETTING SOFT JUST CAUSE HE HAS A GRANDCHILD NOW.
I'VE GOT SO MANY I FORGET ABOUT THEM.
HMM?
クイクイ

YOU SILLY! YOU'RE LIKE A DAUGHTER TO ME, TAEKO!
I WON'T FORGET YOU EVEN IF I DIE!
YEAH! I WON'T FORGET YOU EITHER, GRANDPA!
SO DERE-DERE.
HA, HA, HA...
ME AND THE OTHERS ARE GONNA HAVE OUR USUAL TALK, SO WHY DON'T YOU GO WATCH TV IN THE LANDLORD'S ROOM?
TAEKO
WHAA!? I WANNA STAY HERE!
I WANT TO HAVE SOME ADULT FUN WITH TAE-CHAN TOO
WE'LL BE DONE SOON.
NINTAMA!
BESIDES, ISN'T NINTAMA ON RIGHT NOW?
YEAH! I'LL GO WATCH NINTAMA!

ALRIGHT THEN, THERE'S NO MORE KIDS HERE.
SO... LET'S ENJOY OURSELVES, AND HAVE AN ADULT CONVER-SATION!
THIS WEEK'S EPISODE REALLY WAS AWESOME!
麻生 城太郎
102
SIGN: ASOU JOTARO
TWO TO THREE TIMES A WEEK, WE DISCUSS ANIME.
THIS IS THE "ADULT CONVERSATION" JOTARO-SAN WAS REFERRING TO.
UNIT 00 AND UNIT 02 GOT W..STED TOO.
THE PROB-LEM IS, HOW WILL THEY STOP IT NEXT TIME!?
IT'S GONE BERSERK BEFORE, BUT THIS TIME WAS SOMETHING ELSE!
UNIT 01 GOING CRAZY AT THE END GAVE ME SHIVERS!
おおお
YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT WHEN IT CONSUMED THE S2 ENGINE?

ABOUT FIVE YEARS AGO, JOTARO-SAN DEVELOPED AN INTEREST IN AN ANIME VIDEOTAPE I OWNED.
WELL, CAN'T THEY BRING OUT 04?
AFTER THAT, HE BECAME COMPLETELY ADDICTED TO ANIME AND MANGA.
IT GOT TO THE POINT WHERE HE RECORDED ANIME AND SPENT HIS OWN MONEY ON
BUT I WONDER IF THAT WOULD BE ENOUGH TO STOP UNIT 01?
BUT THESE OTAKU HOBBIES WERE TOO EMBARRASING FOR HIS FAMILY TO KNOW ABOUT.
SO HE USED ROOM 102 AS A STORAGE SPACE TO HIDE ALL OF HIS VIDEOS AND LASER DISCS.
HE EVEN INSTALLED A HIGH-END AV SYSTEM COMPLETE WITH SOUNDPROOF WALLS.
EVEN THOUGH HE NEVER REVEALED IT, HE BECAME A GREAT OTAKU GRANDFATHER.
I MUST SAY, I ENVY YOU GUYS.
HUH? WHY?
カロー
SFX: SLOSH

SOCIETY MIGHT FIND YOU STRANGE, BUT...
DESPITE YOUR YOUTH, YOU KNOW HOW TO BE HAPPY WITHOUT MONEY.
UNTIL I RETIRED, I WAS SWIMMING IN MONEY.
I THOUGHT LIVING THAT WAY WAS AS GOOD AS IT GETS.
BUT I DIDN'T KNOW THIS SORT OF PLEASURE ALSO EXISTED.
WITHOUT CHEATING ONE ANOTHER, WITHOUT INSULTING ONE ANOTHER, EVERYONE ENJOYING THINGS TOGETHER.
OVERLOOKING THINGS AND COMING TO AN UNDER-STANDING
I NEVER HAD THAT VIEW OF LIFE UNTIL NOW.
.....
YOU'RE WRONG... IT'S NOTHING EXTRAVAGANT LIKE THAT...
BUT...
IN THIS DAY AND AGE, WHERE EVERYONE WOULD TREAT US LIKE FOOLS WITHOUT THINKING,
THIS PERSON FROM A DIFFERENT ERA,
PRAISED A PAIR OF OTAKU LIKE US.

I GOT THE FEELING THAT JOTARO-SAN SAW GREAT THINGS FOR US IN THE FUTURE.
...FILLED ME WITH PRIDE.
TO AN OTAKU LIKE MYSELF WHO HAS CONTINUED TO ENDURE HARDSHIP, HEARING THIS FROM A FORMER MEMBER OF THE ARMY...
HONESTLY, ALL MY IDIOT SONS TALK ABOUT IS MONEY.
IF I WERE TO TELL THEM THAT THIS KIND OF WORLD ALSO EXISTS, THEN MAYBE THEY'D GROW UP A LITTLE.
YOU'RE BEING TOO KIND, JOTARO-SAN.
FROM SOCIETY'S POINT OF VIEW, I'M JUST NOBODY WHO'S DONE NOTHING WITH HIS LIFE DESPITE ALMOST BEING 30.
AND BESIDES, IT'S NOT LIKE I'M UNINTERESTED IN MONEY, I'M JUST DIFFERENT.
THAT'S RIGHT, OLD MAN!
IN ANY CASE, WHAT I WANT IS MONEY!
WELL THEN CHIHIRO
WHICH WOULD YOU PREFER, 10 BILLION YEN, OR A LITTLE GIRL--
キリリ
THE LITTLE GIRL.
GAHAHA! WELL SAID, CHIHIRO!
KAKAKA! THAT WAS A FOOLISH QUESTION, OLD MAN!
ダン
THE FUTURE REALLY DOES LOOK DARK...

YOU'VE NEVER ASKED ME TO DO THAT BEFORE!
AH, NEXT TIME I'LL BE HERE TO COLLECT RENT.
MAKE SURE TO PAY UP, SOUSUKE.
WELL, I'LL STOP BY THE NEXT TIME I'M IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.
I'M DONE LISTENING TO THAT.
INDEED.
I TOLD YOU ALL YOU WOULD HAVE TO DO IS BECOME THE LANDLORD OF THIS PLACE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THAT'S TRUE. I WAS CURIOUS ABOUT THAT. WHY IS IT THERE?
KU, KU, KU...
THAT'S BECAUSE,
管理人室
EVEN THOUGH WE DON'T HAVE A LANDLORD HERE, WE HAVE A ROOM SPECIFICALLY FOR ONE.
OH THAT? WELL, I GUESS YOU COULD CALL IT JOTARO-SAN'S DREAM.

IN THE FUTURE, WHEN A GIRL LIKE OTONASHI ***KO APPEARS, IT'S MY DREAM FOR HER TO MOVE IN AS THE LANDLADY!
I'M WITH YOU 100 PERCENT!
EVEN IF YOU WERE TO COLLAPSE, I WOULD FULFILL YOUR DREAM FOR YOU!
GA, HA, HA!! WELL SAID, SOUSUKE!
.....
I ALSO HAD THIS CUSTOM MADE, SO I COULD PRESENT IT TO HER!
PIYo PIYO
THAT'S AMAZING, JOTARO-SAN!
管理人室
IS THAT AN ADULT CONVER-SATION?
MORE LIKE SOME-THING OLD MEN WOULD TALK ABOUT.
EITHER WAY, IT'S GOT NOTHING TO DO WITH YOU YET-CHAN.
BUT NO ONE HERE COULD HAVE EVER IMAGINED ...
...THAT THIS LITTLE GIRL WOULD BE THE ONE TO INHERIT THAT APRON AND BECOME THE LANDLADY.
?

WHENEVER HE STOPS BY, THIS PLACE GETS SO LIVELY.
ISN'T HE ALMOST 90?
IT'S RIDICULOUS HOW ENERGETIC HE IS.
I SOMETIMES WONDER IF HE'S PHYSICALLY HEALTHIER THAN I AM... ...HA, HA, HA
FROM THE LOOKS OF IT, I GET THE FEELING HE COULD LIVE ANOTHER 20 TO 30 YEARS.
HA, HA, HA
I KNOW YOU SAID YOU WOULD HELP GRANT HIS WISHES, BUT...
AT THIS RATE DOESN'T IT SEEM LIKE YOU'RE THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO SUDDENLY DIE
IT'S POSSIBLE, ISN'T IT? HE'S GOT MORE CONFIDENCE IN HIS HEALTH.
NICCHI-KUN ARE YOU GOING TO LEAVE AFTER YOU MEET YOUR GIRLFRIEND ON THE SECOND FLOOR?
SHE AIN'T MY GIRL-FRIEND.

JOTARO-SAN...
← Go To NEXT!

NICCHI SCANLATIONS

RAIKENTB: TRANSLATION
QUALITY CHECK

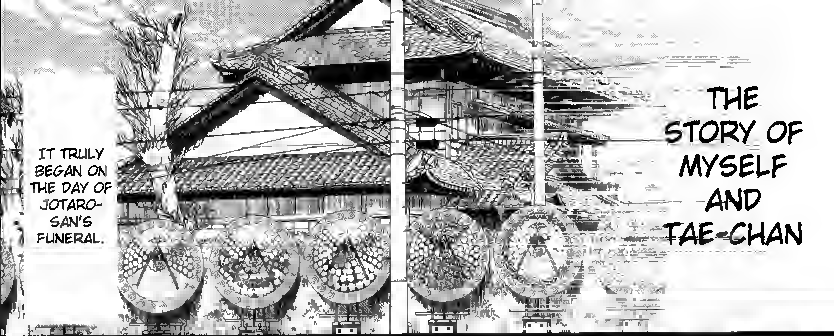
NECRO: TYPESETTING
EDITING
CLEANING
RAW PROVIDER

HTTP://NICCHISCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM/
HTTP://MANGAHELPERS.COM/S/NICCHI-SCANLATIONS

Chapter 39

WHY DID YOUR GRANDFATHER DIE?
THEY SAID IT WAS A HEART ATTACK
LIKE A SUDDEN SPASM
EVEN PEOPLE WHO LOOK HEALTHY CAN SUDDENLY PASS AWAY
彼岸荘
ON THAT DAY, I WAS STILL AT SCHOOL, AND THE MAID HADN'T COME BY YET
SO NO ONE KNEW WHAT HAD HAPPENED, BECAUSE GRANDPA WAS THE ONLY PERSON FROM THE MAIN HOUSE THAT WAS THERE
MAIN HOUSE?
IT WAS IN THIS NEIGHBORHOOD
HA, HA, HA IT WAS DEMOLISHED, AND NOW AN APARTMENT BUILDING IS IN IT'S PLACE.
HUH? SENSEI!?
I'M SORRY TAE-CHAN. COULD YOU FIX US SOME TEA AS WELL?

HA, HA, HA... WHEN I THOUGHT ABOUT IT, I REALIZED AFTER I CONFIRMED SOMETHING WITH KOUTA, THAT THERE WAS NO REASON TO DISCUSS THIS SEPERATELY
WHAT DID YOU CONFIRM?
WELL, HEARING SUCH A LONG STORY IS KIND OF DEPRESSING ON A NOVEMBER NIGHT
BRR
WEREN'T YOU TALKING OUTSIDE ON THE VERANDA?
SENSEI, PLEASE DON'T BRING UP UNNECESSARY THINGS!
HA, HA, HA... I'M SORRY
HMPH
WA, HA, HA, HA, IT'S NOTHING!! IT'S OF NO CONCERN TO CHILDREN...
..EH, HEH, HEH..
I LOVE HER
UEH!?
EVER SINCE I CAME TO THIS PLACE AND MET HER, I'VE FELT THIS WAY
ドキ
ギィ
I'LL CONTINUE THE STORY
IT'S BEST IF THEY HEAR ABOUT THAT TIME FROM MY POINT OF VIEW
COUGH
COULD YOU PLEASE CONTINUE?
RI-GHT.
THERE'S STILL A LOT LEFT, RIGHT?
WELL...
NO...


IT TRULY BEGAN ON THE DAY OF JOTARO-SAN'S FUNERAL.
THE STORY OF MYSELF AND TAE-CHAN

SIGN: BORN THE 11TH YEAR OF THE MEIJI ERA, JUNE 21ST.
我龍院剛力牙城大居士
明治十一年
六月二十一日

Chapter 55 Old story #2

What Asou Jotaro Left Behind

IT LOOKS LIKE BY THE TIME THE MAID FOUND HIM, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE
His sons might have been able to save him, had they still lived with him...
But he thought it would be troublesome for his granddaughter.
Maybe she's the daughter of his mistress?
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT THEM.
TAE-CHAN'S PARENTS?
I REALLY STICK OUT HERE...
IT SEEMS LIKE EVERYONE HERE IS DISTINGUISHED IN SOME WAY.
I HEARD IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS, BUT...
WAS THIS THE REASON I WAS THE ONLY ONE FROM HOSHINOU WHO WAS ASKED TO PAY CONDOLENCES...?
OOOO-OOOOO-OOOOH!
JOU! WHYY-YYYY!?
DIDN'T WE PROMISE TO PASS AWAY AT THE SAME TIME!?
ISN'T THAT TAKE-SAN FROM THE SURVIVAL GAME?

ズイ
YOU NEED SOME-THING?
HUH!? AH, NO, NOT REALLY...
THE SP!?
AH, TAKE-SA--
PAT PAT
LET'S GO.
MAYBE HE'D FEEL BETTER IF HE TALKED TO ME
.....
...THAT'S RIGHT.
WHEN YOU CONSIDER JOTARO-SAN'S ACQUAINT-ANCES FROM THE PAST,
HE HAD PEOPLE LIKE THAT AROUND HIM AS WELL.
GUESS I SHOULD HURRY UP AND OFFER MY INCENSE.
大居士

ONCE EVA IS FINISHED, I'LL BRING ALL OF THE VIDEOS TO YOU.
PLEASE WAIT UNTIL THEN.
I WASN'T ABLE TO MEET UP WITH TAE-CHAN.
SHE MUST BE SAD RIGHT NOW, SO I SHOULD GO SEE HER.
BUT THIS IS A PROB-LEM.
I KNOW HER ROOM IS SOME-WHERE INSIDE, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE IT IS.
WHAT'S A POND DOING HERE...?
WHAT'S WRONG, MISTER? YOU LOST?

AH, YES. EXCUSE ME...
I'M LOOKING FOR A GIRL NAMED TAE-CHAN.
AH, TAE-CHAN.
IF YOU'RE LOOKING FOR HER, SHE'S IN THAT ROOM RIGHT NOW.
ONE OF HIS RELA-TIVES...?
WILL IT BE BAD IF I GO IN THERE NOW?
THOSE GUYS ARE DISCUSSING COMPLICATED STUFF.
LIKE WHO'S GOING TO INHERIT THE MONEY, WHO'S GOING TO TAKE CARE OF TAE-CHAN...
!

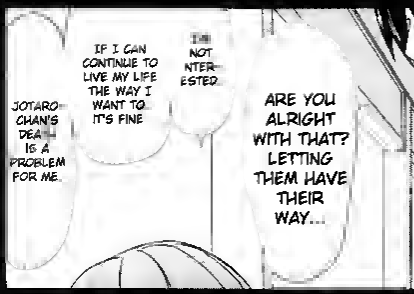
Kimiko can take care of Taeko, can't she? She is her mother.
She can't, and that's why father looked after her.
THEN I GUESS WE'LL HAVE TO PUT HER IN AN INSTI-TUTION.
Is that necessary, when she has so many relatives...?
WELL THEN TAKESHI, WILL YOU TAKE HER IN?
Y-you know I can't do that.
THEN DON'T INTERRUPT ME. SORRY, BUT I CAN'T DO IT EITHER.
AN INSTI-TUTION'S FINE, ISN'T IT?
IT SHOULD BE FINE. AS LONG AS WE GIVE THEM ENOUGH MONEY.
.....
BUT WILL SHE BE ACCEPTED INTO ONE, EVEN WITH THIS MANY REL-ATIVES?
WE'LL MAKE A DONATION
TAE-CHAN IS IN THERE...?
YEAH.
I TOLD THEM I HAD TO GO TO THE RESTROOM AND LEFT.
IS THIS SOMETHING YOU WOULD DISCUSS IN FRONT OF A CHILD?

ANYWAY, IF YOU DON'T LIKE THE INSTITUTION IDEA, THEN MAKE HER MOTHER DO SOMETHING.
JUST HOW LONG IS SHE GOING TO BE IN THE REST-ROOM?
HUH!?
'SIGH'
I REALLY DON'T WANNA GO BACK IN THERE.
ARE YOU TAE-CHAN'S MOTHER!?
THAT'S RIGHT. I'M ASOU KIMIKO.
CALL ME KIMI-CHAN!
WHAT'S YOUR [redacted] MISTER?
I'M MORITA SOUSUKE.
I KNEW JOTARO-SAN FROM HIGANSOU.
AH SO THAT'S WHO YOU ARE! JOTARO-CHAN SAID YOU WERE A REALLY GOOD PERSON!
CAN I CALL YOU SOUSUKE-CHAN?
YOU CAN BE FRIENDS WITH ME, TOO!
WHAT A RELAXED PERSON...

RIGHT NOW, THE BIGGER PROBLEM IS THIS NOTE FATHER SCRIBBLED WITH THE LAST OF HIS STRENGTH.
SHOULD WE CONSIDER THIS HIS WILL?
IT'S IN HIS HANDWRITING, AND INCLUDES A SIGNATURE, SO WE SHOULD CONSIDER IT VALID FOR THE TIME BEING.
THIS IS ALL HE LEFT? YOU WOULD THINK HE'D AT LEAST MENTION US IN IT.
NOW, NOW, DON'T SAY THAT.
PERSONALLY, I FEEL RELIEVED BY THIS NOTE.
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
THINK ABOUT IT. THAT BRAT WAS ALWAYS FATHER'S FAVORITE DURING HIS FINAL YEARS.
I WAS AFRAID HE WAS GOING TO DECLARE HER AS HIS HEIR AND LEAVE EVERYTHING TO HER.
BUT FATHER RELIED ON US TOO MUCH TO RUN THE COMPANY.
DO YOU KNOW WHAT'S LEFT OF HIS FORTUNE?
JUST THAT BEAT UP APARTMENT BUILDING HE FINISHED. ISN'T THAT *CUTE*?
彼岸荘

GAHAHAHAHA!
YOU'RE SO CITY BROTHER.
OF COURSE, I'LL GET MY SHARE OF THAT APARTMENT BUILDING FROM KIMIKO

AH, I GET IT.
YOU'RE RIGHT.


JOTARO CHAN'S DEA- IS A PROBLEM FOR ME.
IF I CAN CONTINUE TO LIVE MY LIFE THE WAY I WANT TO IT'S FINE
I'M NOT INTERESTED.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH THAT? LETTING THEM HAVE THEIR WAY...

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……

I CAN'T, AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM.
YOU'RE HER MOTHER, AREN'T YOU!? CAN'T YOU LOOK AFTER HER ON YOUR OWN?
WHY!?

BECAUSE NOW, THERE'S NO ONE TO TAKE CARE OF TAE-CHAN.
WH-

WELL, IF YOU WERE TO TAKE MY PLACE, I'D BE HAPPY, SOUSUKE-CHAN
WHA-
I-I CAN'T DO THAT!
AH, HA, HA... I WAS JOKING.
AH!
I JUST THOUGHT OF SOME-THING.
!
KIMIKO!

KIMIKO, JUST HOW LONG WERE YOU IN THE BATHROOM?
MITSURU, YOU'RE TAKING THAT APARTMENT BUILDING, RIGHT?
AH, YEAH WE WERE JUST TALKING ABOUT THAT.
OF COURSE. WE'LL SHARE PART OF THE INCOME FROM IT.
OH, I DON'T WANT PART.
I DON'T NEED ANYTHING ELSE, SO JUST GIVE ME THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT WITH THAT!? DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
ALTHOUGH WE HAVE DIFFERENT MOTHERS, WE'RE STILL CONSIDERED SIBLINGS. I HAVE A RIGHT TO PART OF THE MONEY.

I DON'T REALLY UNDERSTAND ANY OF THAT STUFF.
YOU'RE AS UNCUTE AS EVER.
TAE-CHAN.
COME HERE A SEC.
!

!
HUH.
EVEN THOUGH THEY LOOK LIKE THAT, THEY REALLY ARE MOTHER AND DAUGHTER.
WHAT ABOUT TAE-CHAN?
I DON'T KNOW THE CIRCUM-STANCES, BUT
SHE REALLY DOES WANT TO BE WITH HER MOTHER, DOESN'T SHE?

THAT APARTMENT BUILDING IS YOURS NOW.
SO GO LIVE THERE BY YOURSELF, TAE-CHAN.
!?
WHAA!?
!?
WHA-

WHAT ARE YOU SAYING, KIMIKO!?
DO YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU'RE SAYING?
IS SOMETHING WRONG?
I'M ONLY TALKING ABOUT WHAT'S BEST FOR HER.
WHAT'S "BEST"?
WHY DON'T YOU LIVE THERE AS WELL?
HAVING A CHILD LIVE BY HERSELF...
YOU LOVE THAT PLACE, DON'T YOU? SO I THINK IT'S BEST IF YOU LIVE THERE.
YOU ALL KNOW I CAN'T DO THAT, RIGHT?
I CAN'T STAND BEING AROUND SOMEONE FOR TOO LONG.

I'LL HIT THEM.
AND KICK THEM.
AND I WON'T BE ABLE TO STOP.
ISN'T THAT WHY SHE WAS AT JOTARO-CHAN'S PLACE?
WH...
.....
BUT WE CAN'T POSSIBLY ACCEPT THAT!
IF YOU CAN'T RAISE HER, THEN SHE CAN GO TO AN INSTI-TUTION!
TAE-CHAN PROBABLY WOULDN'T LIKE THAT.
SHE SHOULD BE THE ONE TO DECIDE.
HOW ABOUT IT, TAE-CHAN?
WILL YOU GO TO AN "INSTI-TUTION" ...
OR LIVE IN THAT APARTMENT BUILDING?

TAE-CHAN...
WHAT'S *WITH* THESE PEOPLE...?
TREATING A SMALL CHILD LIKE THIS.
..THEY'RE ALL BEING SELFISH
...I-

YOU DON'T HAVE TO ANSWER THAT!
SENSEI ...?
WHAT ARE YOU-
ALL OF YOU ARE THE WORST!

SHE CAN'T POSSIBLY ANSWER SUCH A HARSH QUESTION!
AREN'T YOU PUSHING ALL OF THE RESPONSIBILITY ON TO HER!?
AREN'T YOU FORCING HER TO DECIDE!?
YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE THIS CHILD LISTEN TO ALL OF THIS!?
TAE-CHAN!
STARTING TODAY, I WILL BECOME YOUR FATHER.

LET'S LIVE TOGETHER AT HIGANSOU.
ギュ

HER ANSWER WAS.
THE FINAL DECISION WAS ENTRUSTED TO KIWIKO-SAN.
AFTER THAT,
THE RELATIVES ASKED ME A SERIES OF FORMAL QUESTIONS BUT THEY REALLY WERE JUST THINKING ABOUT HOW THEY COULD GET RID OF THEIR OWN PROBLEM.
AND SO, I ACCEPTED THE NOTE THAT JOTARO-SAN LEFT BEHIND
DEAR TAEKO,
I'VE LEFT YOUR BELOVED HIGANSOU TO YOU. DO WHAT YOU WISH WITH IT.
-ASOU JOTARO
YEAH, OKAY!

ONCE THINGS HAD CALMED DOWN AND TAE-CHAN HAD GATHERED HER LUGGAGE, WE HEADED FOR HIGANSOU
AT THAT TIME MY TRUE INTENTION FELT CLEAR MAYBE I INTENDED TO BE THE KNIGHT IN SHINING ARMOR THAT SAVED THE PRINCESS
UNABLE TO SAY ANYTHING... I FELT A GREAT SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT
"THIS IS THE CHANCE TO START OVER THAT I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR" ...IS WHAT I MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT AT THE TIME...
I'M BACK.
I'M SORRY TOORU-KUN, BUT COULD YOU PLACE THIS SALT OUTSIDE?
HUH? WHY IS TAE-CHAN HERE?
WELL, IT'S A BIT COMPLICATED BUT FROM NOW ON SHE'S GOING TO BE LIVING HERE.
HUH?
AH, SENSEI. WELCOME BACK.
COME TO THINK OF IT, DOES THIS MEAN TAE-CHAN IS NOW THE LANDLADY?
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING... I'D BETTER CHECK THAT AFTERWORDS...
TAE-CHAN?

I'm here!
Grandpa!
!
Grand-pa!
Taeko is here! Come out!
TA-TAE-CHAN.
?

TAE-CHAN!
I'm here! Grandpa!
Come out! Taeko is here!!
Grandpa!
I'm here!!
Grandpa!!
SFX: DOOR KNOB IS TURNING
GRANDPA!!
!

SENSEI
WHENEVER GRANDPA ISN'T HOME, HE'S ALWAYS HERE....
WHY ISN'T GRANDPA HERE?

TA-TAE-CHAN...
JOTARO-SAN DIED.
.....
I DON'T UNDER-STAND.
HE'S NOT ANYWHERE NOW...
YOU'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO SEE HIM AGAIN.

SHE LOVED YOU, WHO WAS ALWAYS HERE TO SEE HER...
YOU'RE A FOOL, JOTARO-SAN...
THIS CHILD NEVER REALLY LIKED THIS APARTMENT BUILDING.
BUT THE REAL FOOL HERE IS MYSELF, FOR SERIOUSLY THINKING THAT I COULD EVER REPLACE YOU.
...BUT I REFUSED TO THINK THAT HER CRIES OF HEARTBREAK WOULD GO ON FOREVER.

←Go To NEXT!

NICCHI SCANLATIONS

RAIKENTB: TRANSLATION
QUALITY CHECK

NECRO: TYPESETTING
EDITING
CLEANING
RAW PROVIDER

HTTP://NICCHISCANS.BLOGSPOT.COM/
HTTP://MANGAHELPERS.COM/S/NICCHI-SCANLATIONS

Chapter 40
ヒョコ
WHAT'S GOING ON, SENSEI? YOU FINALLY QUIT BEING A MANGA AUTHOR?
THAT'S YOUR MANUSCRIPT, ISN'T IT?
パチ
パチ
パチ
NO, I'M NOT QUITTING BEING A MANGA AUTHOR. WHAT I'M QUITTING IS THIS ADULT MANGA
AH. IT'S EROTIC MANGA, ISN'T IT?
...
WELL, FROM HERE ON, I'LL BE LIVING WITH TAE-CHAN.
I CAN'T LET A CHILD LAY THEIR EYES ON THIS NOW, CAN I?
ISN'T IT THAT YOU JUST DON'T WANT TO SEE YOURSELF DRAWING THIS SORT OF THING?
!
TO BE HONEST, I DON'T FEEL ASHAMED THAT I SWITCHED TO THIS JOB.
IT'S JUST, I WAS DECEIVING MYSELF AND RUNNING AWAY WHEN I DID IT.

I DIDN'T WANT TO SEE MYSELF MAKING SUCH A HALF-HEARTED EFFORT.
.....
WELL, YOUR MANGA IS PRETTY DULL.
YOU COULD BE A LITTLE LESS DIRECT WITH YOUR WORDS I WAS THINKING THAT EARLIER AS WELL
SO, WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO NOW? DID YOU FIND A ANOTHER JOB?
IF I HAD, I WOULD HAVE MADE THIS DECISION MUCH SOONER
I'M GOING TO AIM FOR MY DREAM OF WORKING AT A SHONEN MANGA PUBLISHER.
IT MIGHT TAKE SOME TIME, BUT I'VE DECIDED TO TRY MOVING FORWARD.
I THINK THAT'S A GOOD DECISION, BUT CAN YOU AFFORD IT?
YOU DON'T HAVE ANY SAVINGS, DO YOU?

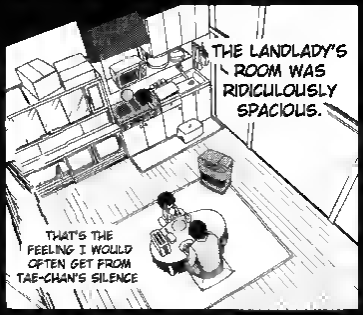
WELL, I'LL MANAGE FOR THE TIME BEING
EARLIER, I SPOKE WITH TAE-CHAN'S MOTHER.
WHY A BUNNY OUTFIT?
SINCE I'M THE ONE WHO'S GOING TO BE RAISING TAE-CHAN HERE, I'LL BE COLLECTING ALL OF THE RENT MONEY.
THAT'S REALLY SOMETHING!
THEN, COULDN'T YOU JUST KICK BACK AND SLEEP ALL DAY WHILE THE MONEY ROLLS IN?
NO WAY.
YOU KNOW WHAT THE RENT HERE IS LIKE, RIGHT?
IF YOU SUBTRACT THE COST OF UTILITIES AND THE MANAGER'S FEE,
YOU END UP WITH MAYBE 10,000 YEN, EVEN THOUGH WE HAVE NO VACANCIES...
THIS PLACE WAS JOTARO-SAN'S HOBBY.
I SEE. SO IT'S NOT THAT SIMPLE, IS IT?
EVEN SO, I WANT TO THANK YOU IF I WORK AT A PART-TIME JOB FOR ABOUT FIVE WEEKS I SHOULD HAVE ENOUGH MONEY TO SUPPORT TWO PEOPLE.
AND THEN, YOU SHOULD BE ABLE TO FOCUS ON DRAWING MANGA AGAIN
THAT'S NOT A BAD REVIVAL PLAN.
YEAH...
THAT'S RIGHT. I CAN MAKE A LIVING WHILE STILL FOCUSING ON ADVANCING MY CAREER WITHOUT ANY PROBLEMS.

!
YO! TAE-CHAN. YOU LOOK AS CUTE AS EVER WITH YOUR BACKPACK
RIGHT NOW, MY REAL PROBLEM IS...
EVER SINCE THAT DAY, SHE'S BECOME UNABLE TO SMILE.
I'M HOME.
AH, WELCOME HOME, TAE-CHAN.

CHAPTER 40 OLD STORY #3

The First Night

THE FIRST PROBLEM THAT AROSE WHEN TAE-CHAN MOVED IN WAS LIVING SPACE.
INVITING HER INTO MY ROOM WASN'T A GOOD IDEA, BECAUSE IT WAS FILLED WITH MY STUFF AND CRAMPED.
WE WERE OFTEN SEPERATED FROM EACH OTHER, BUT I DIDN'T THINK OF THAT AS AN OBSTACLE AT THE TIME.
SO WE DECIDED THAT SHE WOULD SLEEP INSIDE THE LANDLADY'S ROOM.

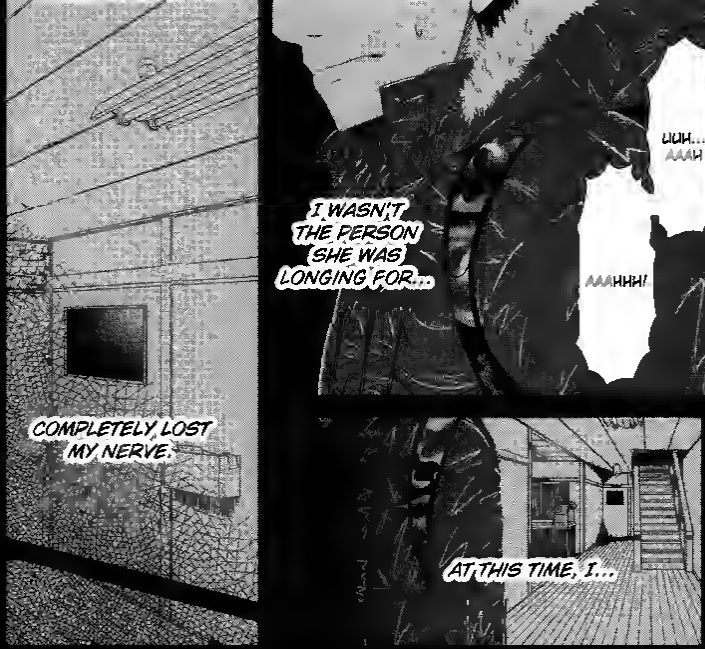

THE LANDLADY'S ROOM WAS RIDICULOUSLY SPACIOUS.
THAT'S THE FEELING I WOULD OFTEN GET FROM TAE-CHAN'S SILENCE

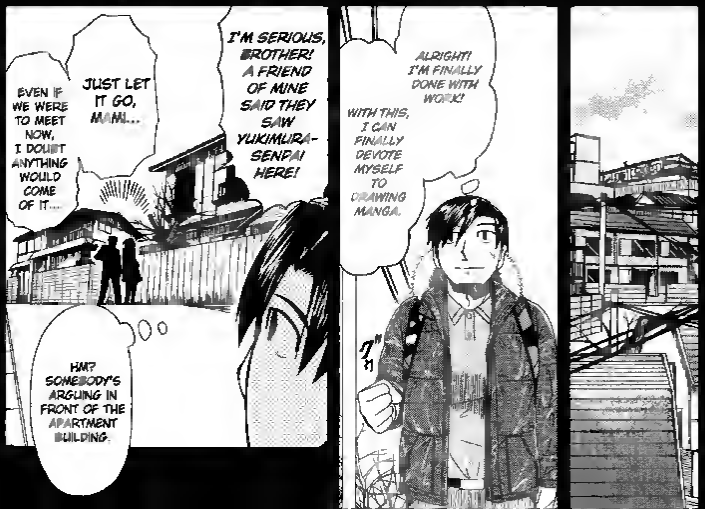
I THOUGHT THERE WOULDN'T BE A PROBLEM, AS LONG AS WE AT LEAST ATE TOGTHER.
WHEN I FIRST STARTED MY PART TIME JOB, WE GRADUALLY HAD LESS TIME TO SEE EACH OTHER, AND I ONLY MANAGED TO SHOW MY FACE DURING BREAKFAST

I CAN HELP HER GET OVER HER SADNESS OF LOSING JOTARO-SAN.
IT'LL BE ALRIGHT. AFTER THIS, I CAN LIVE TOGETHER WITH HER, AND WE CAN BECOME A FAMILY

WELL, I'VE ONLY GOT ONE MORE WEEK TO GO AT MY PART TIME JOB
ONCE THAT'S OVER, I CAN STAY AT HOME DURING THE DAY, AND SPEND AS MUCH TIME WITH HER AS NECESSARY.
ガ
工事中

TAE-CHAN.
JUST A LITTLE MORE, AND MY JOB WILL BE OVER, SO PLEASE WAIT...
.....
ガラッ...
GUU-UUHH...
HUH!?
SHE'S CRYING!?
GRANDPA...
GRAND-PAAA AAAAAA...
TAE-CHA--
ヒｯｸ


UUH...
AAAH
I WASN'T THE PERSON SHE WAS LONGING FOR...
AAAHHH!
COMPLETELY LOST MY NERVE.
AT THIS TIME, I...


I'M SERIOUS, BROTHER! A FRIEND OF MINE SAID THEY SAW YUKIMURA-SENPAI HERE!
JUST LET IT GO, MAMI...
EVEN IF WE WERE TO MEET NOW, I DOUBT ANYTHING WOULD COME OF IT....
HM? SOMEBODY'S ARGUING IN FRONT OF THE APARTMENT BUILDING.
ALRIGHT! I'M FINALLY DONE WITH WORK!
WITH THIS, I CAN FINALLY DEVOTE MYSELF TO DRAWING MANGA.
ｱﾘﾏｯﾁ

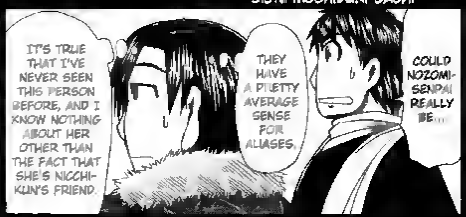
HIGH SCHOOLERS?
UM, IS THERE ANYONE LIVING HERE NAMED YUKIMURA NOZOMI?
MA-MAM...
AH, EXCUSE ME! DO YOU LIVE IN THIS APART-MENT?
DO YOU TWO HAVE BUSINESS HERE?
WELL, YEAH.
NO, THERE'S NOBODY HERE WITH THAT NAME...
YUKI-MURA?
SEE! LET'S GO, MAMI!
I'M SORRY SHE ASKED YOU SOME-THING STRANGE.
WAIT, KOUTA! SHE MIGHT BE USING A FALSE
SHE'S A PRETTY WOMAN WITH LONG HAIR THAT LOOKS LIKE A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT!
A HIGH SCHOOL-ER?
TOORU-KUN'S THE ONLY ONE HERE WHO'S A HIGH SCHOOL STUDENT.
AH, BUT NICCHI-KUN'S FRIEND MIGHT LOOK LIKE A HIGH SCHOOLER.
HUH!? NICCHI!?

"MISTER", HUH...
HEY, MISTER! COULD YOU SHOW US WHERE NITTA-SENPAI'S FRIEND'S ROOM IS?
SEE! I KNEW THIS SOUNDED FISHY!
YEAH. WAIT, ARE YOU TWO FRIENDS OF HIS?
BY "NICCHI", DO YOU MEAN NITTA CHIHIRO?

望月　幸

201

SIGN: MOCHIDUKI SACHI


IT'S TRUE THAT I'VE NEVER SEEN THIS PERSON BEFORE, AND I KNOW NOTHING ABOUT HER OTHER THAN THE FACT THAT SHE'S NICCHI-KUN'S FRIEND.
THEY HAVE A PRETTY AVERAGE SENSE FOR ALIASES.
COULD NOZOMI-SENPAI REALLY BE...

WAAAAAHHHH!
!?
WAAA-AAAA-AHH!
IT'S DEFINITELY YUKIMURA-SENPAI--
THERE'S BEEN TOO MANY COINCIDENCES FOR THIS TO BE A MISTAKE!
ST-STOP IT! WHAT IF YOU'RE MISTAKEN!?
I WAS SURPRISED TO SUDDENLY HEAR A BABY CRYING.
YEAH
IT LOOKS LIKE THIS PERSON GAVE BIRTH TO A CHILD RECENTLY.
HUH!? A BABY!?
HE PROBABLY GET ALONG WITH ME
HA, HA, HA... HE'S SURPRISINGLY INNOCENT FOR SOMEONE HIS AGE.
MA-MAM! NOZOMI-SENPAI ISN'T THAT KIND OF PERSON!
YOU CLING TO YOUR DELUSIONS OF WOMEN TOO MUCH, BROTHER!
YOU HAVEN'T SEEN HER IN A YEAR, SO SHE MIGHT HAVE HAD A CHILD!
SEE? YOU'RE WRONG! IT'S NOT NOZOMI-SENPAI!
LET'S GO, MAM!

C'MON, LET'S GO!
AH! THE DOOR'S UNLOCKED!
I'M GOING TO OPEN IT, YUKIMURA-SENPAI!
W-WAIT, MAMI! IF-
UUUWAAAH!
BROTHER!?
IF NOZOMI-SENPAI REALLY IS IN THERE I...
...UH

I DON'T WANNA REMEMBER! I DON'T WANNA REMEMBER!!!!!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THAT HORRIBLE MEMORY!
HEY! DON'T RUN AWAY!
I DON'T CARE ABOUT IDIOT ANYMORE! I'M OPENING THE DOOR, SENPAI!
!
AAAH. YOU FINALLY FOUND MY HIDING PLACE.
HUH!? NITTA-SENPAI!?

I'VE BEEN STORING MY COLLECTION OF STUFF THAT I DEFINITELY CAN'T SHOW TO ANYONE. THE RENT HERE IS CHEAP.
"WHAT," YOU SAY?
AND JUST WHAT ARE YOU HIDING HERE!?
OH NO! PLEASE DON'T LOOK AT THOSE, SENSEI!
DID HE MOVE THIS STUFF HERE BECAUSE HE SENSED THAT THE KIDS IN THIS AREA FOUND HIM OUT?
※CAN'T BE SHOWN FOR VARIOUS REASONS
COME TO THINK OF IT, I'D NOTICED THERE WAS A LOT OF LUGGAGE BEING BROUGHT TO THIS ROOM. SO THIS IS WHAT IT WAS...
I'D DEFINITELY NOT WANT TO SHOW THIS TO ANYONE.
I WON'T BE FOOLED BY YOUR LIES NITTA-SENPAI!
I HEARD FROM THAT PERSON THAT A FEMALE FRIEND OF YOURS LIVES HERE SO I KNOW THIS IS A COVER UP!
SHE'S PRETTY STUB-BORN.
WHAT WILL YOU DO, NICCHI-KUN?
I'M NOT DONE YET!
WHAT ABOUT THAT BABY THAT WAS CRYING JUST A MOMENT AGO!?
HA, HA, HA... NO, I DIDN'T.
YOU DIDN'T KNOW ABOUT THIS!?
WELL, THAT'S CAMOFLAGE FOR MY SECRET ROOM. I MADE THE OTHER RESIDENTS THINK THAT A MYSTERIOUS WOMAN WAS LIVING HERE.
THAT DOES SOUND LIKE SOME-THING HE WOULD DO.

OGYA...
NGYA!
IT'S PART OF MY VIDEO COLLECTION.
YOU'RE STARTING TO PUSH ME HERE. ANYTHING ELSE?
N-NO...
AAAAAAH!
THAT DID HAPPEN, DIDN'T IT!?
HA, HA, HA...
I GOT A BIT SIDETRACKED, BUT IT MADE ME REMEMBER THAT.
HUH? THEN THAT SHOULD HAVE HAPPENED 10 YEARS AGO, RIGHT?
WHAT'S WRONG FATHER?
!

THEN...
THERE'S NO MISTAKE
ドクン
?
WHAT? SOMETHING BOTHERING YOU?
N-NO, IT-
IT'S NOTHING IMPORTANT.
AT THAT TIME WHEN I WAS RUNNING AWAY-
UWAAAAAAHHH!
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING! WHY!?
HUH!?

MY MEMORY OF THIS TIME WAS ALWAYS BLURRY.

IF THAT REALLY *WAS* NOZOMI-SENPAI...

...THEN THAT BABY MUST HAVE BEEN...
UWOOH! MY HEART'S POUNDING AGAIN! JUST LIKE THAT TIME AT THE MATERNITY WARD.
WHAT? IS SOMETHING WRONG, FATHER?
N-NO, IT'S NOTHING...
YOU JUST REMEMBERED HOW STUPID YOU ARE, AND HOW YOU WANT TO DIE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, YOU WON'T TALK ABOUT IT...
SHUT UP, DAMMIT.
UM, SENSEI, DID YOU EVER FIND OUT IF NOZOMI-SEMPAI WAS LIVING THERE?
NO, I'M AFRAID I CAN'T SAY.
I DON'T EVEN REMEMBER THEIR FACES...
DURING THOSE SIX MONTHS, I NEVER REALLY MET WITH THE OTHER RESIDENTS.
NICCHI-KUN IS PROBABLY THE ONLY ONE WHO KNOWS THE TRUTH.
IT WOULD BE REALLY HARD TO ASK HIM THAT...
WELL THEN, SHALL I CONTINUE?
AFTER THAT, NICCHI-KUN FORMALLY BECAME A RESIDENT OF HIGANSOU.
BUT THAT DOESN'T HAVE MUCH TO DO WITH THIS STORY.
BEST REGARDS
IN MY CASE, I HAD JUST FINISHED DRAWING MY MANGA A LITTLE WHILE AGO
ALRIGHT! IT'S JAM-PACKED WITH STUFF I WANTED TO DRAW!

CONFIDENT, I IMMEDIATELY BROUGHT MY WORK TO A BIG NAME SHONEN MANGA PUBLISHER.
BUT THE EDITOR SAID I PACKED TOO MUCH INTO IT, AND TURNED ME DOWN.
MY FIRST ATTEMPT HAD ENDED IN FAILURE.
THAT DAY, I DIDN'T FEEL LIKE GOING STRAIGHT HOME, SO I WANDERED AROUND THE CITY AND DRANK A LITTLE.
IT WAS PAST TEN BY THE TIME I GOT HOME.
ピク
UHHAH UHH...
ガラララ
SFX. SLIDING DOOR

IT'S ALRIGHT. NO MATTER HOW HARD IT IS, SHE'LL FORGET IT OVER TIME.
TAE-CHAN'S CRYING AGAIN...
WHERE DO YOU THINK YOU'RE GOING, SOUSUKE?
NAGATO-SAN...
"WHERE", YOU ASK? I'M GOING BACK TO MY ROOM.
GOING BACK?
IS THAT WHERE YOU'RE SUPPOSED TO BE?
IN THAT CASE, JUST WHO IS IT THAT'S CRYING OVER THERE?

DIDN'T YOU BECOME A FATHER?
WHY CAN'T YOU GO BACK TO HER?
NO...
THAT'S...
...I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE BEST IF I LEFT HER ALONE FOR AWHILE...
RIGHT NOW, JOTARO-SAN IS STILL IN HER HEART, AND IT SEEMS LIKE THERE IS NO ROOM FOR ME IN THERE.
IF YOU'RE SERIOUSLY SAYING THAT THEN YOU'RE DELUSIONAL
HUH?
CHILDREN DO NOT FORGET THINGS.
THEY ARE YOUNG, AND THEY CRAVE INFORMATION MORE THAN A WISE MAN.
RIGHT NOW THAT GIRL HAS BEEN CUT OFF FROM REALITY AND STOPPED RECEIVING INFORMATION.
THAT GIRL HAS ONLY BEEN ENDOWED WITH JOTARO'S LOVE.
DO YOU THINK SHE CAN RECOVER BY HERSELF WITH ONLY THAT?
DO YOU THINK SHE WILL EVER ALLOW HERSELF TO FORGET JOTARO?

WHAT'S NECESSARY IS A STRONG WILL FROM THE OUTSIDE. AN EXISTENCE THAT MAY BE OVERBEARING, BUT IS LIKE AN OUTSTRETCHED HAND, LETTING ONE MOVE FORWARD..
SAYING IT'S JUST A MATTER OF TIME FOR HER IS A RECKLESS REMARK, SOUSUKE!
YOU NEED TO REALIZE THAT RIGHT NOW, THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN SAVE THAT GIRL IS YOU!
!
MY FAMILY CARRIES A LARGE PROBLEM AS WELL, BUT WE ALL LIVE TOGETHER AND SUPPORT ONE ANOTHER.
THAT'S WHAT A FAMILY IS.
SOUSUKE!
カチャ
HE DIDN'T HEAR ME...
ガラ
!

ガイ
IF I DON'T BRING ANOTHER FUTON, I WON'T HAVE ANYWHERE TO SLEEP, WILL I?
HMPH. HONESTLY, THIS GUY...

HUH!? NAGATO-SAN!?
WHERE ARE YOU!?
I'M RIGHT HERE
THIS WAS THE LAST TIME I EVER SAW NAGATO-SAN

UUUUH ....
GR-ND-PA...

!
TAE-CHAN, I'M COMING IN!
ガチャ
HUP!
!?
...NGH
WH-WHAT...!?

WHY?
I-I CAN SLEEP BY MYSELF ALREADY.
LET'S LIVE TOGETHER.
I'VE DECIDED THAT STARTING TODAY. I'LL BE SLEEPING HERE TOO.
I TOLD YOU, I'M GOING TO BECOME YOUR FATHER.
I WANT TO BECOME A REAL FAMILY.
AND FOR THAT TO HAPPEN, WE NEED TO LIVE IN THE SAME HOUSE.
WE'RE ALREADY LIVING TOGETHER.
NO.
WE HAVEN'T REALLY BEEN LIVING TOGETHER FOR THIS PAST MONTH.

THE PLACE WHERE YOU SLEEP IS YOUR HOME.
AH, THAT'S RIGHT. I FORGOT MY PAJAMAS DIDN'T I?
ん"...

I'LL GO GET THEM, SO WAIT HERE FOR A MOMENT, TAE-CHAN.
...WAIT.
...USE THIS.
THAT'S JOTARO-SAN'S SAMUE.
CAN I WEAR IT, TAE-CHAN?
.....

I DON'T WANNA BE ALONE ANYMORE.
ALL RIGHT!

LET'S GET OVER JOTARO-SAN'S DEATH TOGETHER!
'SNIFF'

THAT NIGHT, I STAYED WITH HER UNTIL SHE COULDN'T CRY ANYMORE.
...AND HERTS...
AND THEN, WE FELL INTO A DEEP SLEEP.
モゾ
モゾ
WHEN I WOKE UP, NICCHI-KUN WAS INSIDE THE FUTON.
SO I THREW HIM OUT.
I can be part of your family, too!!

NOW, IF I COULD JUST GET HER TO SMILE AGAIN, I'D BE ABLE TO REJOICE.
I'M A MANGA AUTHOR!
I'LL MAKE TAE-CHAN SMILE WITH THE POWER OF MANGA!
I CAN'T WASTE ANY MORE TIME THINKING ABOUT THIS!
I'LL JUST HAVE TO MANAGE SOME-HOW!
IF I CAN'T MAKE ONE GIRL SMILE, THEN I'LL NEVER BE ABLE TO GO PRO NOW WILL I?
FROM THAT DAY, MY LIFE WAS ALL ABOUT MY DREAM AND TAE-CHAN'S HAPPINESS.
もく
もく
HMM!
I TURNED MY ATTENTION TO THOSE TWO GOALS, AND BEGAN MOVING FORWARD.

←Go To NEXT!

NICCHI SCANLATIONS

RAIKENTB: TRANSLATION
QUALITY CHECK

NECRO: TYPESETTING
EDITING
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Chapter 41

うさぎとライオンくん
USAGI AND LION-KUN
THE SHOCK OF LOSING HER GRANDFATHER CAUSED TAE-CHAN TO STOP SMILING
TO CHEER HER UP AND MAKE HER ACT LIKE HER OLD SELF AGAIN, I DECIDED TO DRAW A MANGA WITH THAT EXACT PURPOSE IN MIND.

I GET WHAT YOU'RE SAYING, BUT ISN'T THIS METHOD PRETTY ROUNDABOUT?
.....
NICCHI-KUN WOULD SAY THINGS LIKE THAT, BUT TO SOMEONE AS ORDINARY AS MYSELF, I COULDN'T COME UP WITH ANY OTHER WAY TO MAKE HER HAPPY.

TAE-CHAN!
I'M HOME
カラ
I'VE GOT SOMETHING I'D LIKE YOU TO READ!
PLEASE MAKE MISO SOUP FOR ME EVERY MORNING, AND SERVE IT IN THAT CAP OF YOURS!

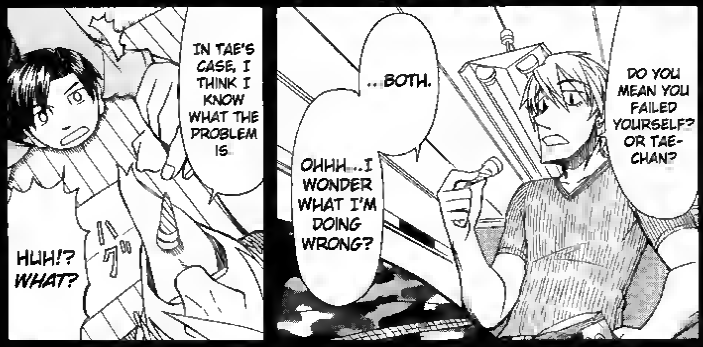
HO-WAA HAHA HAAAA!
FU, FU, FU IF TAE-CHAN READS THIS, SHE'LL DEF-INITELY
THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE DRAWN A COMIC GEARED TOWARD GIRLS BUT I'M PRETTY CONFIDENT ABOUT IT
HOW WAS IT, TAE-CHAN?
IT WAS REALLY... INTER-ESTING.
...BUT,
BUT WHAT?
...I'M SORRY.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, I DON'T KNOW WHAT KIND OF FACE I SHOULD MAKE.

WHY DON'T YOU TRY SMILING?
FU FU FU
IT'S BORING.
HAAAAAH!?

HOW OLD IS TAEKO?
?
Chapter 41 OLD STORY #4
The Rhapsody of Taeko's Puberty
WORK No.0041

SFX : SLIDING DOOR OPENS

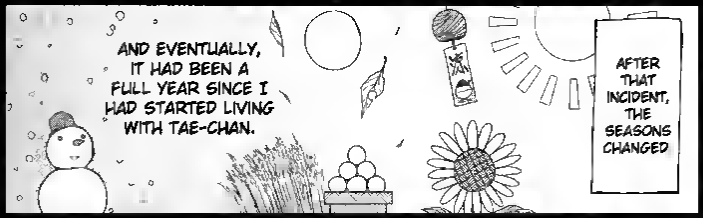
SFX: COLLAPSING ON THE FLOOR


IN TAE'S CASE, I THINK I KNOW WHAT THE PROBLEM IS.
HUH!? WHAT?
...BOTH.
OHHH...I WONDER WHAT I'M DOING WRONG?
DO YOU MEAN YOU FAILED YOURSELF? OR TAE-CHAN?

I'M ASHAMED FOR THINKING I COULD RELY ON YOU, EVEN JUST A LITTLE BIT.
WELL, IF IT'S FOR ADULTS WHO HAVE A WARPED PERCEPTION OF ELEMENTARY SCHOOLERS, THEN I HAVE PLENTY OF THAT KIND OF MATERIAL.
THERE'S QUITE A LOT OF IT IN MY ROOM.
BUT IF THAT'S THE CASE, I DON'T KNOW WHAT SORT OF THINGS MAKE A GIRL HER AGE HAPPY... AH!!
THAT'S RIGHT! YOU'D KNOW THAT SORT OF THING, WOULDN'T YOU, NICCHI-KUN?
HMM, ME?
MAGICAL BANANA!
THAT'S JUST US
UMM... VOLLEYBALL?
THINGS THAT ARE POPULAR RIGHT NOW?
ISN'T THAT A BIT OFF TOO?
ALRIGHT! I'LL DO SOME RESEARCH HERE ON MY OWN!
I'M ALREADY A GREAT-GREAT-GRAND-MOTHER!
AND YESTERDAY, THEIR CHILD GAVE BIRTH, AND SO I BECAME A GREAT-GRANDMOTHER!
I BOUGHT THIS LAST WEEK AND I FINALLY HAVE A GRANDCHILD!
LION PARK

...POPULAR?
WELL, I THINK THAT THIS SUMMER, WORKS RELATED TO EVA WILL BE POPULAR WITH BOTH BOYS AND GIRLS.
IT'S GOTTA BE SWAP!
HATTORI-KUN IS SO CUTE!
(PROBABLY A REFERENCE TO THE POP GROUP SWAP)
SHE COULDN'T POSSIBLY BE TALKING ABOUT COMIKET..
RUROUNI KENSHIN STILL HAS A STRONG FOLLOWING TOO.
スルスル
WHAT ARE YOU SAYING!? COME ON, LET'S GO!
HUH!? NO WAY!! I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING SUSPIC--
HEY! JUST WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE DOING!?
THAT MAN'S BEEN ACTING SUSPICIOUS FOR A WHILE NOW!!
HE'S OVER THERE, OFFICER!
WELL, I'VE GATHERED SOME INFORMATION, SO NOW I'LL GO GET STARTED ON MY MANUSCRIPT...
?

AH HA!! SO IT WAS YOU, NICCHI!
OH CRAP! THEY FOUND ME!


AND EVENTUALLY, IT HAD BEEN A FULL YEAR SINCE I HAD STARTED LIVING WITH TAE-CHAN.
AFTER THAT INCIDENT, THE SEASONS CHANGED

AND WITHOUT REALIZING IT, I STARTED TO NOTICE HER JOY IN THE MANGA I DREW FOR HER.
DOING IT THIS WAY CAUSED HER TO START SHOWING EMOTION.

I HAD YET TO WORK ON A MANUSCRIPT FOR ONE OF MY OWN MANGA, BUT...
THE RESEARCH I HAD DONE FOR TAE-CHAN'S HAD BEGUN TO BEAR FRUIT, AND IT LOOKED LIKE I WAS MAKING PROGRESS.

AND THEN CAME THE TURNING POINT.

SENSEI, DID YOU STAY UP ALL NIGHT?
ALRIGHT! SOMEHOW I MADE IT IN TIME!
WHAT'S WRONG, TAE-CHAN?
?
.....
I DON'T THINK IT'LL TAKE ME THAT LONG, SO DON'T WORRY ABOUT DINNER TONIGHT.
I'M GOING TO SLEEP FOR A BIT, AND THEN HEAD OVER TO THE PUBLISHER'S BUILDING
YEAH! ...GOOD MORNING, TAE-CHAN. TODAY'S THE DAY I MEET WITH THE PUBLISHER.
I HEARD YOU TALKING WITH NICCHI...
WHY DO YOU SAY THAT?
...SENSEI, IF YOU FAIL TODAY, ARE YOU REALLY GOING TO STOP DRAWING MANGA?
AND ANOTHER THING... I'LL BE TURNING 30 THIS YEAR, SO I THINK IT'S ABOUT TIME I SETTLED THIS.
YES, THAT'S RIGHT.
FROM THE START, I DECIDED THAT THE DEADLINE FOR THIS CHALLENGE WAS ONE YEAR.
!

YOU CAN'T GIVE UP!
.....
BUT THAT'S--
SENSEI'S MANGA IS SO INTERESTING!
.....
THANK YOU, TAE-CHAN
I WON'T GIVE UP
I HAVE CONFIDENCE IN MY MANUSCRIPT THIS TIME. IT'LL DEFINITELY BE A SUCCESS.
...SENSEI.
WELL, I'D BETTER GET SOME SLEEP!
I HAD A PROBLEM WITH NODDING OFF DURING MY PREVIOUS APPOINTMENT.
TAKE CARE, TAE-CHAN!
I'M GOING NOW...

SIGN MORITA SOUSUKE
森田 宗
103
……
UWAAAH!
I OVER-SLEPT!!
彼岸荘

WHY DID I WAKE UP THIRTY MINUTES LATE!?
I- I'M GOING NOW!
!
ピンポーン
HA, HA, HA.. I KNOW I SAID THIS EARLIER, MORITA-SAN, BUT...
WHILE I KNOW YOU'RE DEFINITELY GIVING IT YOUR ALL...
I THINK YOU'RE GOING AT IT ALL WRONG.

THIS IS SIMPLY TOO HARD TO READ. I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF YOU WERE TO PUT JUST A LITTLE LESS EFFORT INTO IT.
IT'S NO GOOD!?
IS IT REALLY NO GOOD...?
I'M SORRY, BUT I DON'T THINK WE CAN ACCEPT THIS MANU-SCRIPT...
...I'M SORRY.
IT LOOKS LIKE I FAILED AGAIN, TAE-CHAN...
NOW ABOUT THIS SHOUJO MANGA HERE...
!
HUH? SHOUJO MANGA?

AH! HUH!? WHAT IS THAT!?
NO THAT'S- IT'S JUST SOMETHING I DREW FOR MY DAUGHTER. I DIDN'T PUT ANY EFFORT INTO IT AND IT'S NOT SOMETHING I'D WANT TO SHOW TO ANYONE ELSE!
ガタ
HUH? YOU DREW THIS, MORITA-SAN!? BUT...
ISN'T THE WRITING STYLE COMPLETELY DIFFERENT!?
AH, WELL, THAT'S BECAUSE I THOUGHT IT WOULD BE MORE SUITABLE FOR GIRLS.
.....
I'M GOING TO BORROW THIS FOR A MINUTE. PLEASE WAIT HERE!
HUH?
A-ALL RIGHT....
編集
SHOUJO COMICS KACHUSHA EDITOR
HOW DO YOU DO, MORITA-SENSEI?
MY NAME IS MUTSUKI, AN EDITOR WORKING WITH SHOUJO COMICS KACHUSHA.
I TOOK A LOOK AT THE MANUSCRIPT THAT KAWASHIMA LENT ME JUST NOW....
THAT DAY, I BROKE MY PROMISE TO TAE-CHAN THAT I'D BE HOME IN TIME FOR DINNER.

They're right!!
IS WHAT SHE SAID, AS SHE LAUGHED SOMEWHAT SCHEMINGLY.
THAT NIGHT, ONCE I RETURNED TO THE APARTMENT, I TOLD TAE-CHAN WHAT HAPPENED.

AND SO, THANKS TO HER SMILE, MY LIFE AS A SHOUJO MANGA AUTHOR HAD BEGUN.

I DON'T KNOW IF IT WAS BECAUSE OF THE POWER OF MANGA...
HER SMILE HAD GONE BACK TO THE WAY IT ONCE WAS.
BUT AFTER GETTING THE CHANCE TO SEE HOW MANGA IS PRODUCED, THEN I WANT TO BELIEVE IT.

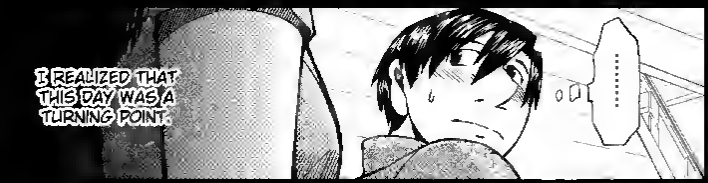
police
HEY, TAE-CHAN! I CAME TO VISIT!
HOW ARE YOU?
KIMIKO-SAN WOULD VISIT HIGANSCU ABOUT ONCE A MONTH.
SHE WOULD ALWAYS TALK WITH ME FOR ABOUT AN HOUR, AND THEN LEAVE.
COME HERE, COME HERE!
WHY A GOP IN A NINE-SKIRT?
TAE-CHAN IS, PROBABLY WHO KIMIKO-SAN REALLY WANTED TO TALK TO BUT SHE ALWAYS REFUSED.
I'VE GOT SOME DELICIOUS SWEETS!
BUT...
YOU'VE GOT SOME ON YOUR CHEEK, SOUSUKE-CHAN.
HER ADVANCES TOWARD ME ARE TROUBLESOME IN MORE WAYS THAN ONE...

MORE TIME PASSED, AND TAE-CHAN BECAME A MIDDLE-SCHOOLER.
AND THEN, LITTLE BY LITTLE, THE PEOPLE AROUND US BEGAN TO CHANGE...
MONSTER!?
STAY AWAY FROM ME, YOU MONSTER!
MY EYES! MY EYES!
THE FIRST PERSON TO REACT WAS NICCHI-KUN.
SIGN: LANDLADY'S ROOM
管理人室
I'M NOT A MONSTER!
AND TO THINK THAT IN THE PAST HE'D ALWAYS GET SO UNCOMFORTABLY CLOSE TO ME
HONESTLY!
HA, HA, HA... WELL, NICCHI-KUN IS DIFFERENT, AFTER ALL.
IT WAS TROUBLESOME FOR YOU TOO, WASN'T IT TAE-CHAN?
WELL, YEAH...
BUT I CAN UNDERSTAND WHY NICCHI-KUN IS SHOCKED.
HOW CAN I BUT IT? LATELY TAE-CHAN HAS...

MORITA-SENSEI, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
AH, NAGATO-SAN, WHAT'S UP?
I TRIED MAKING THIS.
PLEASE, EAT IT WITH TAEKO-CHAN.
彼岸荘
?
WHAT'S WRONG, SENSEI?
GAG
N-NO, IT'S NOTH-ING.
WHAT AM I THINK-ING!?

パカ
OH! IT'S SEKIHAN.
DID SOMETHING IMPORTANT HAPPEN RECENTLY?
WELL, THIS MIGHT BE A BIT INTRUSIVE OF ME...
BUT THIS IS A GIFT TO CELEBRATE TAEKO-CHAN BECOMING AN ADULT.
AUNTIE NAGATO! BUT I TOLD YOU NOT TO SAY ANYTHING!
!?
HUH?
WHAT?
!
AM I BEING A MEDDLER?
UP UNTIL THIS POINT, I HADN'T THOUGHT OF HER AS A WOMAN.
TO ME, WHO ALWAYS THOUGHT OF TAE-CHAN AS A CHILD, THIS WAS A PRETTY SHOCKING EVENT.

FROM NOW ON, IF YOU'VE GOT ANY PROBLEMS, PLEASE TALK WITH ME.
+++
I'M RIGHT HERE.
? ?
HUH? NAGATO-SAN?
キョロ キョロ
AUNT NAGATO?
AND THIS WAS THE LAST TIME WE EVER SAW NAGATO-SAN.


I REALIZED THAT THIS DAY WAS A TURNING POINT.
……

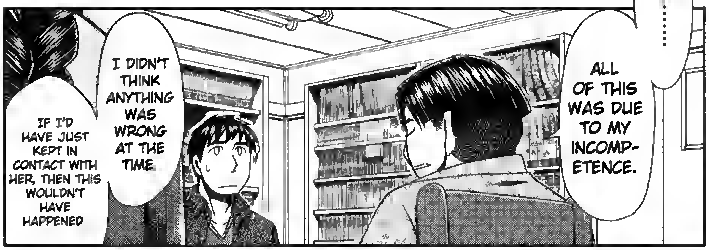
FROM THEN ON, TAE-CHAN WAS A WOMAN.
AND I SUDDENLY BECAME UNABLE TO STAY IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH HER.
THERE WAS NOW SOME DISTANCE CREATED BETWEEN US.

AT THIS TIME, I WAS BUSY WORKING AND HIRING PEOPLE, AND SO I TURNED ROOM 101 INTO MY WORKPLACE.
I BEGAN TO SECLUDE MYSELF IN THERE AS WELL.
shinra works 101
I WENT BACK TO SLEEPING IN ROOM 103.
SHE BECAME ISOLATED, JUST LIKE THE PREVIOUS TIME.
I DON'T WANT TO BE ALONE ANYMORE.
AS A RESULT, THE DISTANCE BETWEEN ME AND TAE-CHAN BECAME EVEN GREATER.
WHEN SHE TURNED FOURTEEN...
YES...BECAUSE OF THAT, WHAT HAPPENED NEXT WAS PROBABLY INEVITABLE.
IN ADDITION TO THAT, THE NUMBER OF RESIDENTS DECREASED, NICCHI-KUN LOST HIS INTEREST IN TAE-CHAN AND FOR SOME REASON WE NEVER SAW NAGATO-SAN'S FAMILY.
IT WAS A VERY DIFFICULT TIME FOR HER.

TAE-CHAN BECAME A DELINQUENT.

Huh!?
TH-THIS IS THE LANDLADY!?
I'M SO EMBARRASSED!
SHE'S A BLONDE...
I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT WAS BECAUSE OF MY YOUTH
WHAT'S THE DEAL WITH THIS PICTURE?
IT'S BASICALLY A MEMENTO OF WHAT I DID BACK THEN
A FRIEND OF MINE TOOK IT...
TO PROVE YOU WERE A BADASS?
I'D PREFER YOU KEEP IT A SECRET
NIGHT AFTER NIGHT, WE'D GO LOOKING FOR GUYS
THAT COULDN'T HAVE BEEN ALL OF IT!
VIOLENCE WAS JUST A SMALL PART OF IT
DON'T SAY IT LIKE IT WAS JUST A HOBBY OF YOURS

UMM...
I REMEMBER BEING STRANGLED REALLY HARD BY THIS PERSON
AH!
I'M CERTAIN IT WAS WHEN I WAS INTRODUCED TO SENSEI THROUGH NICCHI-SEMPAI, BACK WHEN I FIRST CAME HERE
YOU KICKED ME REALLY HARD FROM BEHIND.
HUH?
EVEN THOUGH I WAS INNOCENT
I-I'M SORRY!
TH-THAT'S BECAUSE YOU WERE WANDERING AROUND THE FRONT OF THE BUILDING, AND CREEPING ME OUT
I THOUGHT YOU WERE SOME WEIRDO!
YOU THOUGHT I WAS A CREEPY WEIRDO?
BUT IT'S TRUE THAT TAEKO IS UNUSUALLY QUICK WITH HER HANDS, AND I'M BEGINNING TO SEE WHY
DON'T PUT IT LIKE THAT! I'M MY TRUE SELF NOW!
YOU'VE SLAPPED ME IN THE FACE A COUPLE OF TIMES TOO.
TH-THAT WAS BECAUSE YOU WERE A LOSER!
EVEN NOW I CAN'T FORGET THE PAIN.
A CREEPY WEIRDO AND A LOSER...
THAT'S IN THE PAST!
I DON'T THINK THAT NOW!


ALL OF THIS WAS DUE TO MY INCOMP-ETENCE.
I DIDN'T THINK ANYTHING WAS WRONG AT THE TIME.
IF I'D HAVE JUST KEPT IN CONTACT WITH HER, THEN THIS WOULDN'T HAVE HAPPENED

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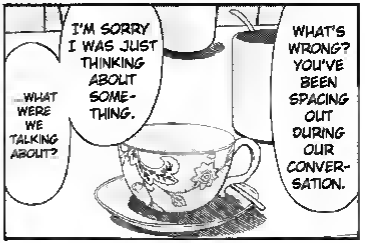
BUT DIDN'T YOU SAY IT WAS INEVITABLE!?
IF I WAS IN YOUR SHOES, I THINK I WOULD DEFINITELY NOTICE--
I-I WASN'T REFER-RING TO YOU!!
...I JUST MEAN WHEN THE LANDLADY WAS YOUNGER!
HMPH.

HE'S WRONG. THE REASON I WENT OFF THE DEEP END WAS...
IT'S TRUE THAT WE STOPPED SLEEPING IN THE SAME ROOM, BUT, THAT'S NORMAL FOR ANY PARENT AND THEIR CHILD.
IT LOOKS LIKE SENSEI IS THINKING THAT, BUT IN REALITY HE WASN'T REALLY AVOIDING ME.
YOU'RE WRONG.
.....
...THE WORLD I KNEW HAD CAST ME ASIDE FOR THE MOMENT.
IF I WERE TO MARRY SOUSUKE-CHAN,
THEN HE'D BECOME YOUR REAL FATHER, TAE-CHAN.

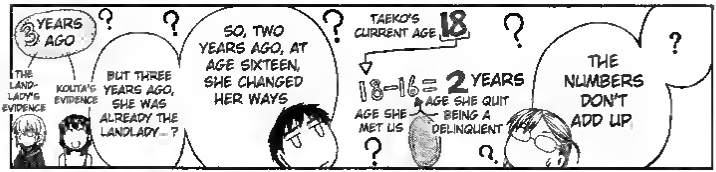
DID I THINK SHE WAS GOING TO TAKE MY FATHER AWAY FROM ME?
OR WAS I AGAINST THE THOUGHT OF THAT PERSON BECOMING MY MOTHER?
NO, I UNDERSTAND NOW. IT WAS...
-LAND LADY?

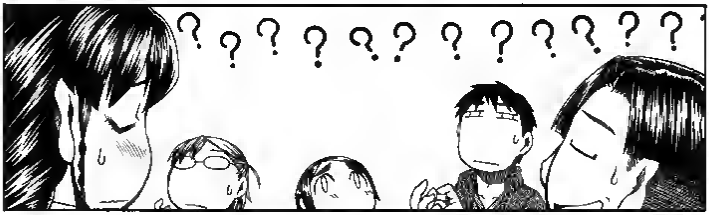
ピク
AH, YES, WHAT IS IT!?
HUH!?
MISS LAND-LADY!?

WE WERE WONDERING WHEN YOU BECAME THE LANDLADY.
AH, RIGHT
I FINALLY QUIT BEING A TROUBLE-MAKER WHEN I TURNED SIXTEEN


WHAT'S WRONG? YOU'VE BEEN SPACING OUT DURING OUR CONVER-SATION.
I'M SORRY I WAS JUST THINKING ABOUT SOME-THING.
...WHAT WERE WE TALKING ABOUT?

SIXTEEN?
THEN YOU CAN'T BE A HIGH SCHOOLER ANYMORE, RIGHT?
I MEAN, I DIDN'T KNOW YOU WERE A DELINQUENT
IT'S BEEN THREE YEARS SINCE I STARTED COMING HERE AND FIRST MET THE LANDLADY.
THOUGH, I DID MEET HER WHEN SHE WAS A DELINQUENT...


2 YEARS AGO
THE LANDLADY'S EVIDENCE
KOUTA'S EVIDENCE
BUT THREE YEARS AGO, SHE WAS ALREADY THE LANDLADY...?
SO, TWO YEARS AGO, AT AGE SIXTEEN, SHE CHANGED HER WAYS
TAEKO'S CURRENT AGE 18
18-16= 2 YEARS
AGE SHE MET US
AGE SHE QUIT BEING A DELINQUENT
THE NUMBERS DON'T ADD UP



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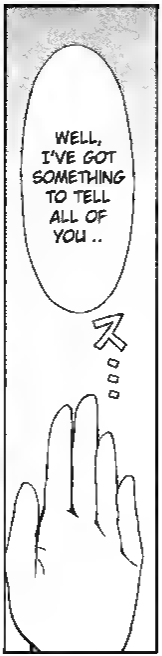
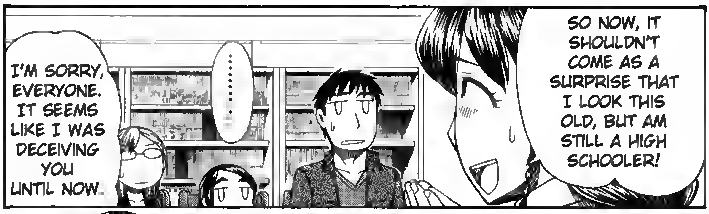
THE TRUTH IS, I ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL ONE YEAR LATE.
RIGHT NOW, I'M NINETEEN YEARS OLD, AND ONE GRADE ABOVE HARUKA-CHAN.


WELL, I'VE GOT SOMETHING TO TELL ALL OF YOU ..
ス...


SO NOW, IT SHOULDN'T COME AS A SURPRISE THAT I LOOK THIS OLD, BUT AM STILL A HIGH SCHOOLER!
.....
I'M SORRY, EVERYONE. IT SEEMS LIKE I WAS DECEIVING YOU UNTIL NOW.

MATURE WOMAN
MADAM TAEKO AGE 30 MOTHER OF 2
NO, NO...ONE YEAR REALLY DOESN'T MAKE THAT MUCH OF A DIFFERENCE.
MORE LIKE, IT'S TOO LATE TO BE SAYING THAT NOW...
BUT YOU CAN JUST TREAT ME LIKE YOU ALWAYS HAVE
ドドドドドド

HUH? NOBODY SEEMS TO BE REACTING.
AH, COULD IT BE YOU'RE JUST TOO SURPRISED?

AH, WELL, THAT WAS BECAUSE...
チラ

RIGHT! AH, YES.
SO THEN, YOU FINALLY QUIT BEING A DELINQUENT?

THIS IS THE PART I WANT ALL OF YOU TO LISTEN TO.
THE INTRODUCTION WAS A LONG ONE, BUT NOW WE'VE REACHED THE MAIN PART OF THIS STORY.
AND YOU, KOUTA, I THINK THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TELL YOU EVEN THOUGH IT MAY CONFLICT WITH YOUR FEELINGS.
ESPECIALLY KANAU-KUN, WHO'S BEEN HAVING PROBLEMS WITH TAE-CHAN
IT WAS WHEN I HAD JUST BEGUN MY JOB DOING "NIKIBI'S MAGIC", AND THE SERIES HAD STARTED SERIALIZATION
THREE YEARS AGO...

I WAS AT MY WORST, HAVING NOT ENTERED HIGH SCHOOL YET, AND LIVING A MEANINGLESS LIFE, IRRITATED BY EVERYTHING.
ザ"
ザ"
!
ザ"
IT'S BEEN A WHILE, TAE-CHAN.
HUHU. I SUPPOSE THIS IS PROOF ENOUGH THAT LIVING IN THAT INFERIOR HOME HAS DISRUPTED YOUR BEHAVIOR.
HAAH? WHAT'D YOU SAY?
YOU TRYIN' TO PISS ME OFF?
IT'S NO SURPRISE THAT YOU DON'T REMEMBER ME. WE HAVEN'T SEEN EACH OTHER SINCE THE FUNERAL.
I'D ONLY BEEN TO ONE FUNERAL IN MY LIFE.
FUN-ERAL?

I'M ASOU TAKESHI.
TAE-SAN, THESE GUYS LOOK KINDA DANGEROUS.
TCH.
WHAT'S SHE DOING HERE?
WHAT?
YOUR NEW FATHER.

←Go To NEXT!

NICCHI SCANLATIONS

RAIKENTB: TRANSLATION,
QUALITY CHECK

NECRO: TYPESETTING
EDITING
CLEANING
RAW PROVIDER

THE NEXT CHAPTER, #42,
IS 58 PAGES LONG.
BECAUSE OF THE LENGTH,
IT MAY NOT BE RELEASED FOR
ANOTHER WEEK OR MORE.
BUT TRUST US...YOU'RE GONNA
ENJOY IT. -NICCHI

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HTTP://MANGAHELPERS.COM/S/NICCHI-SCANLATIONS

Chapter 42
DON'T LET THEM GET AWAY!
HURRY UP AND CATCH THEM!
SHIT! THAT DAMNED KIMIKO.
I THOUGHT IT WAS ODD FOR HER COME QUIETLY ALONG WITH US, BUT...
TAE-CHAN, HURRY!! THIS WAY!
WHAT IS THIS!? WHAT'S GOING ON!? EXPLAIN!

AKANE-NEECHAN IS ON OUR SIDE.
GET IN.
ガチャ
TCH!
IT'S ALRIGHT.
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHERE THEY RUN TO!
DON'T WORRY!
I'LL SAY IT RIGHT NOW, THIS ISN'T MY FAULT!
YOU THINK YOU CAN ESCAPE ME THAT EASILY!?
I KNOW WHERE THEY'RE GOING, REGARD-LESS.
WE'LL WAIT FOR THEM AT THE APARTMENT BUILDING.

Chapter 42 OLD STORY #5

The Otaku Who Cried Out for Love At the Center of the World

I JUST ARRIVED HERE MYSELF.
I UNDER-STAND. ALL RIGHT, PLEASE TAKE CARE OF THEM.
'BEEP'
OH, SORRY ABOUT MAKING YOU COME OUT HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN DOING PRETTY WELL LATELY, HAVEN'T YOU?
"CLEARASIL SHINRA-SENSEI," WAS IT?
ASOU MITSURU-SAN— WHAT BUSINESS COULD YOU POSSIBLY HAVE WITH ME NOW?
WELL, GET IN MY CAR FIRST WE NEED TO BE ON THE MOVE WHILE WE TALK ABOUT THIS
TROU-BLE?
YOU NEEDN'T BE SO VIGILANT.
IT'S THE PEOPLE ON MY END WHO ARE CAUSING ALL THE TROUBLE.

MY YOUNGER BROTHER TAKESHI IS TRYING TO GAIN POSSESSION OF HIGANSOU.
...HUH?
A TRAIN STATION WAS JUST FINISHED NEAR HERE, RIGHT?
THANKS TO THAT, THE LAND HAS GONE UP IN VALUE
RIGHT NOW, TAKESHI'S COMPANY IS HAVING ALL SORTS OF PROBLEMS
HE'S A GONER IF HE DOESN'T RAISE SOME MONEY SOON.
B-BUT, HIGANSOU BELONGS TO TAE-CHAN.
HOW COULD HE POSS-IBLY...?
PARENTS HAVE POWER OF AUTHORITY OVER MINORS.
EVEN THOUGH THAT APARTMENT BUILDING BELONGS TO TAEKO, THE ONE WHO TRULY HAS CONTROL OVER IT IS KIMIKO.
OF COURSE KIMIKO HAS NO INTENTION OF DOING ANYTHING WITH IT
THE PROBLEM IS THE WHERE-ABOUTS OF THAT AUTHORITY.

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TAKESHI IS TAKING AWAY KIMIKO'S AUTHORITY OVER TAEKO.
WHAT!?
"TAKING AWAY"? IS IT REALLY THAT EASY--
IT'S UNEXPECTEDLY EASY.
IN KIMIKO'S CASE, IT WOULD BE MORE PRACTICAL BECAUSE SHE ABANDONED HER CHILD.
SHE HAS A PREVIOUS RECORD OF CHILD ABUSE AS WELL. THERE ARE SEVERAL WAYS HE COULD HAVE TAKEN AUTHORITY FROM HER.
.....
TAKESHI COULD ALSO DO IT, BECAUSE HE'S HER RELATIVE
ALL HE HAS TO DO IS GAIN AUTHORITY, AND HER ASSETS BECOME HIS. SO BASICALLY, HE COULD DO WHATEVER HE WANTED WITH THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.
I THINK YOU KNOW THIS ALREADY, BUT DESPITE THE FACT THAT YOU'RE TAEKO'S FATHER, YOU'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD, AND THUS HAVE NO CONNECTION LEGALLY.
EVEN IF YOU TRY TO INTERVENE, IT'S USELESS
.....

GAINING AUTHORITY
WELL, GAINING AUTHORITY MEANS BECOMING RESPONSIBLE FOR THE CHILD'S UPBRINGING. BUT I DOUBT HE HAS ANY INTENTION OF DOING THAT.
IF HE SEARCHED, HE COULD FIND A SCHOOL IN WHICH TO SHUT HER AWAY.
IF NOT THAT, HE COULD USE MORE VIOLENT MEASURES
THEN, WHAT IS TAE-CHAN SUPPOSED TO DO?
BUT THAT'S-
ISN'T THERE ANOTHER WAY!?
OF COURSE THERE IS.
OTHERWISE, WE WOULDN'T BE HAVING THIS CONVERSATION.
WHAT IS IT!?
ONE WAY... IS BY GAINING AUTHORITY OVER HER FIRST.
!
BUT... YOU'RE NOT COMFORTABLE WITH THAT, ARE YOU?
WELL, NO...

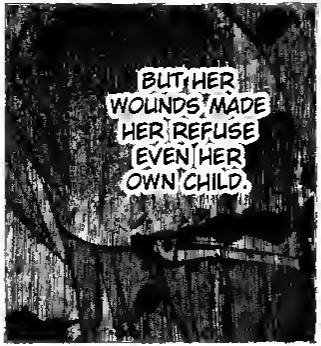
RELAX. I WANT TO APOLOGIZE FOR THIS AS WELL.
I, TOO, WOULD BE IN TROUBLE IF THE GUYS FOLLOWING TAKESHI SPOTTED ME
THE PEOPLE FROM WHOM HE BORROWED HIS MONEY ARE BAD NEWS.
I WANT TO HAVE AS LITTLE TO DO WITH THEM AS POSSIBLE.
I'LL ONLY SAY THIS ONCE...BUT THIS TIME, I HAVE NO ULTERIOR MOTIVES.
I HAVE ONLY GOOD INTENTIONS.
...NO, THAT'S NOT QUITE IT.
THIS IS... ATONEMENT.

...ATONEMENT?
MAYBE I'M BEING A HYPOCRITE.

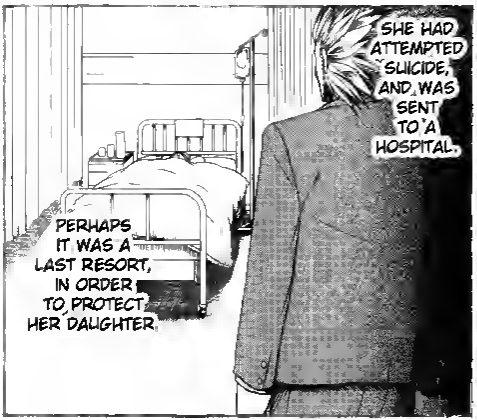
FOR KIMIKO...
...NO.
FOR KIMIKO AND HER CHILD.
THE REASON THEY ENDED UP LIKE THIS IS BECAUSE OF US... THE ASOU FAMILY.
.....

KIMIKO ENDED UP BEING RAISED IN OUR HOME, BUT AT THAT TIME, FATHER WAS A WORKAHOLIC WHO PAID NO ATTENTION TO HIS FAMILY.
THERE WAS NO ONE IN THAT HOUSE-HOLD WHO SUPPORTED KIMIKO
SHE KIMIKO WAS A CHILD BORN FROM SOME WOMAN WHOM FATHER IMPREG-NATED.
HER MOTHER WAS IRRES-PONSIBLE, AND DIS-APPEARED AFTER FORCING THE CHILD ONTO FATHER.
THAT MINDLESS PERSECUTION AND WRETCHED ENVIRONMENT CAUSED KIMIKO TO SUFFER DEEP EMOTIONAL SCARS.
I, MY MOTHER, MY SISTER, AND MY BROTHER WOULD ALL HARSHLY BEAT HER WHENEVER SOMETHING HAPPENED.
BY THE TIME I HAD BECOME AN ADULT AND TRIED TO REASON WITH HER, IT WAS ALREADY TOO LATE.
SHE HAD GROWN IRRITABLE
KIMIKO'S SCARS WOULDN'T ALLOW ANYONE TO GET CLOSE TO HER.
AS A RESULT OF THAT,
KIMIKO BECAME UNABLE TO TRUST ANYONE.

THAT DAY, THE HEAD FAMILY RECEIVED WORD THAT KIMIKO HAD BEEN FOUND.



AFTER SHE QUIT HIGH SCHOOL, KIMIKO LEFT THE ASOU HOUSEHOLD AND KEPT HER WHEREABOUTS A SECRET.
IT WAS SUPPOSEDLY DURING THIS TIME THAT SHE BECAME PREGNANT WITH TAEKO.



"I WANT YOU TO TAKE MY PLACE, AND RAISE TAEKO," IS WHAT SHE SAID...
AND THEN, AFTER SEEING HIM LIKE THAT, SHE REQUESTED SOMETHING.
FATHER TEARFULLY APOLOGIZED TO KIMIKO FOR THE MISTAKES HE'D MADE DURING HIS YOUTH.
EVER SINCE THAT FUNERAL I'VE HAD THIS PAIN IN MY CHEST
BUT, I REALLY DON'T WANT TO GROW OLD
I WATCHED AS FATHER ACCEPTED HER REQUEST, AND, SILENTLY LISTENED AS HE CALMED DOWN AND DISCUSSED THE MATTER WITH HER.
WITHOUT A DOUBT, WE ARE THE ONES WHO HAVE BROUGHT MISFORTUNE UPON KIMIKO AND TAEKO.
THAT'S WHY, UP UNTIL THIS POINT, WE COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
IF WE WERE TO GET INVOLVED WITH THEM AGAIN IT WOULD ONLY CAUSE THEM MORE SUFFERING
THAT'S WHY WE DECIDED THAT AT THE VERY LEAST, WE SHOULD PROTECT THAT APARTMENT BUILDING.
彼岸荘

YOU'RE A LOT LIKE JOTARO-SAN.
IT'S ALL THAT'S LEFT OF THAT IDIOT...
HE, TOO WAS OFTEN MISUNDERSTOOD BECAUSE OF HIS SARCASTIC TONE
THE DEPTH OF HIS AFFECTION FOR TAE-CHAN IS THE SAME AS YOURS
AND HE PROBABLY FELT STRONGLY ABOUT ATONING FOR WHAT HE DID TO KIMIKO-SAN
STOP THAT, SOU-SUKE.
I'M NOT LIKE HIM AT ALL.
JUST NOW, I BABBLED ON ABOUT PROTECTING THAT BUILDING, BUT WE'RE DOING THIS TO SAVE OUR OWN SKIN
JUST GIVING YOU THIS LITTLE BIT OF ADVICE IS AN ACT OF HYPOCRISY
ALL OF THIS IS JUST A SMALL EFFORT TO ATONE FOR WHAT WE DID TO KIMIKO.

NO, THAT'S PLENTY.
PLEASE TELL ME HOW TO SAVE TAE-CHAN.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, AKANE. I TAKE IT YOU'RE DONE EXPLAINING THE SITUATION?
YES.
...ALTHOUGH IT WAS A SLOW, PAINFUL PROCESS.
ガチャ
ガチャ
HEY, YOU HAVEN'T LOST YOUR NERVE, HAVE YOU, SENSEI?
ポン
!
DON'T WORRY. WE'LL ACCOMPANY YOU THROUGH THIS AS CO-SIGNERS.
HOWEVER...
!

THE REST...

...IS UP TO YOU TWO.
YOU CERTAINLY TOOK YOUR TIME COMING HOME.
ザ"
!
.....
.....

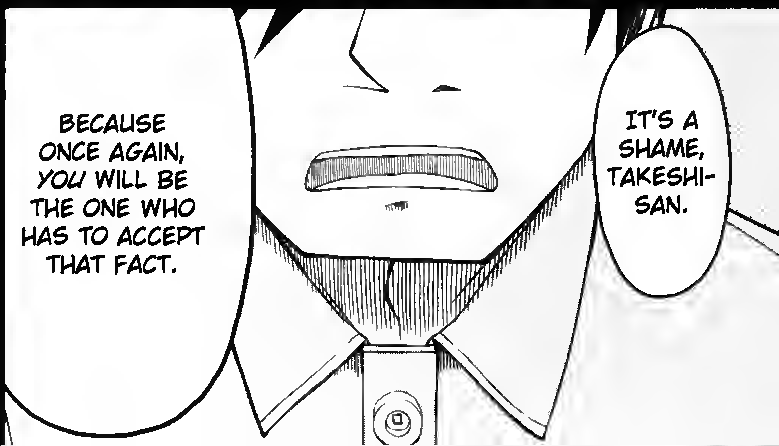
I'VE GOTTEN A LITTLE CHILLY WAITING HERE FOR SO LONG.
SHALL WE DISCUSS THIS INSIDE?
TO SUMMARISE, KIMIKO-SAN HAS BEEN DEEMED UNSUITABLE TO BE TAEKO-SAN'S GUARDIAN
AND SO I AM HERE TO ANNOUNCE ASOU TAKESHI AND HIS WIFE AS HER NEW GUARDIANS
DID YOU UNDER-STAND THAT?
AH, THIS MAN IS MY PER-SONAL LAWYER.
THIS SORT OF THING CAN BE AWFULLY COM-PLICATED
ESPEC-IALLY FOR YOU TWO

YOU BASTARD
WHO'D WANT TO BECOME YOUR DAUGHTER?
YOU'RE JUST AFTER THIS APARTMENT BUILDING, AREN'T YOU?
A MINOR LIKE YOU HAS NO SAY IN THIS MATTER, TAEKO-CHAN
WHAT'D YOU SAY?
FOR THAT MATTER...
...NEITHER DOES THAT FAILURE OF A PARENT.
...NOR THAT MAN WHO HAS NO RELATION TO YOU WHATSO EVER.
THERE'S NOTHING ANY OF YOU CAN DO TO STOP ME.

YOU'RE WRONG
SENSEI IS REL-ATED TO ME!
NO, HE'S NOT. HE'S AN OUTSIDER.
ABOUT WHAT?
I'M PRETTY SURE HE'S IN ABSOLUTELY NO POSITION TO OPPOSE US
SHUT UP!
OVER THESE PAST SEVEN YEARS, SENSEI HAS RAISED ME ALL BY HIMSELF!

HE DREW MANGA TO MAKE ME HAPPY!
HE SAVED ME FROM THE DESPAIR I FELL INTO FOLLOWING GRANDPA'S DEATH!
HE ALWAYS WATCHED OVER MY SMILE!
TO ME, HE'S EVEN MORE THAN THAT!
TAE-CHAN...
OF COURSE HE'S MY PARENT!
NO...

I'LL MAKE YOU PAINFULLY AWARE OF THAT FACT, THE SAME WAY I WAS FORCED TO!
NO! YOU'RE WRONG!
BUT WITHOUT OFFICIAL PROOF OF ANYTHING HE'S STILL AN OUTSIDER.
IN [redacted]NTRY WITH THIS KIND OF GOVERNMENT THAT MEANS EVERYTHING
IN THIS WORLD, EVERYTHING IS DECIDED BY DOCUMENTS AND SEALS!
KUHAHAHAHA!! NO MATTER HOW MUCH YOU YELL, THAT'S REALITY!
HA, HA, HA...
PUHA...
KUKUKU
KAKAKAKA


IT'S A SHAME, TAKESHI-SAN.
BECAUSE ONCE AGAIN, YOU WILL BE THE ONE WHO HAS TO ACCEPT THAT FACT.

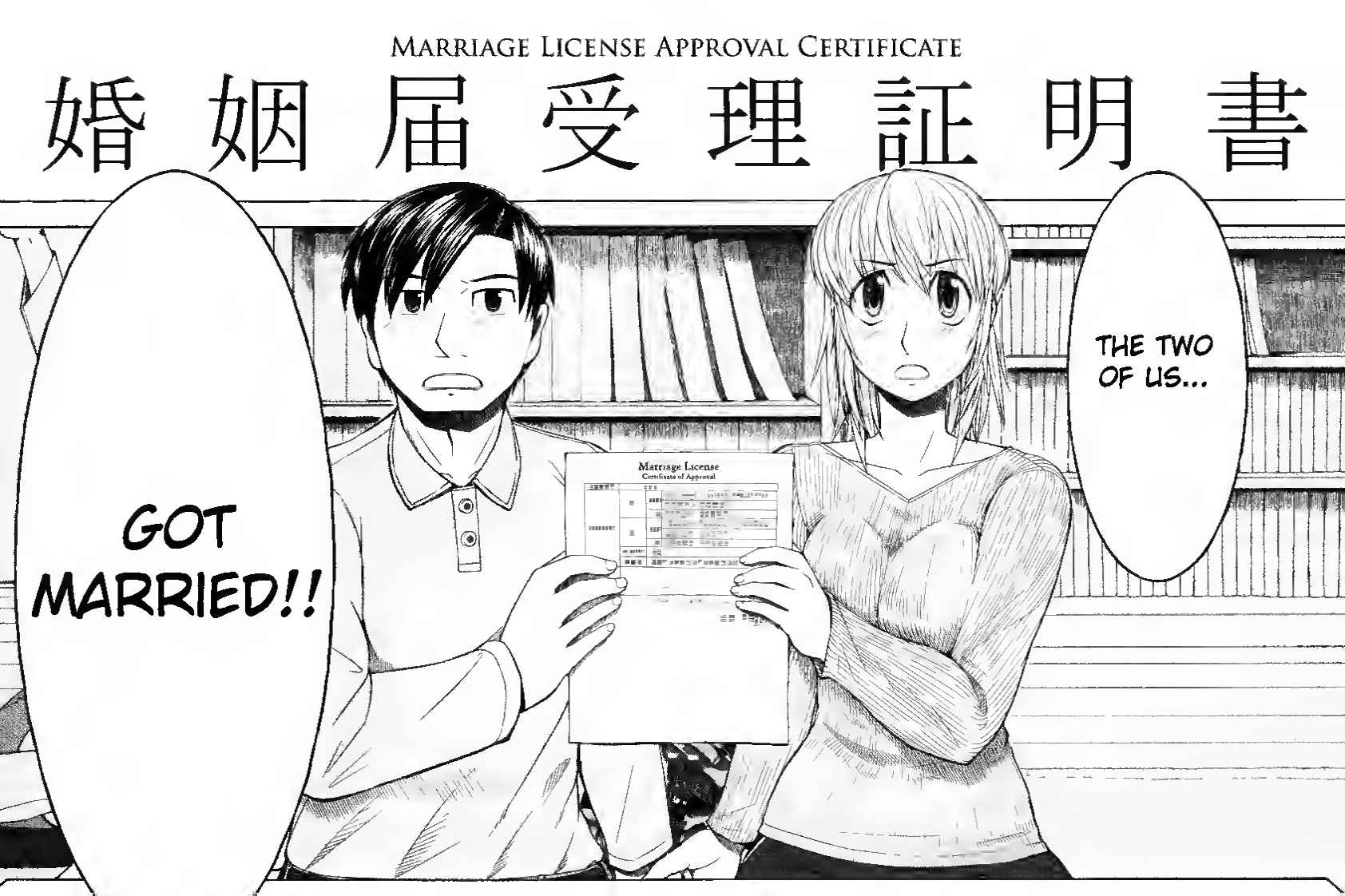
IT'S THE MOST SUITABLE WAY THERE IS OF SHUTTING UP SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
TWITCH
THOUGH I REALLY CAN'T SEE WHY SOMETHING LIKE THIS WOULD MEAN SO MUCH TO SOMEONE,
ヒラ
THIS PIECE OF PAPER HAS MADE ME REALIZE ONE THING.
...WHAT DID YOU SAY?
THAT'S RIGHT. THE FIRST TIME I BECAME AWARE OF MY FEELINGS WAS BACK THEN.
IT WAS TWO YEARS AGO, AT THE BEGINNING OF SPRING, AND BEFORE TAE-CHAN BECAME A DELINQUENT.
LATE ONE NIGHT, KIMIKO-SAN CAME TO HIGANSOU, HORRIBLY DRUNK.
A-ARE YOU ALRIGHT, KIMIKO-SAN!?
Uuuh, uuh, nieh-heh...
ALL OF A SUDDEN, KIMIKO-SAN...

NYAHAHA, I KISSED YOU!
W-WAIT A MINUTE! YOU'RE DRUNK, KIMIKO-SAN!
I WAS DEFINITELY DISTURBED BY WHAT HAPPENED.
BUT AT THAT TIME, I DIDN'T UNDERSTAND WHY...
SHE SAW!
NO, I ONLY THOUGHT I COULDN'T UNDER-STAND...
I-I'LL GO GET YOU SOME WATER.

THE FIRST TIME I, TOO, BECAME AWARE OF MY FEELINGS WAS AT THAT MOMENT.
YES.
HEY~ TAE-CHAN
!
ARE YOU HAPPY NOW?
IF I WERE TO GET MARRIED TO SOUSUKE-CHAN,
THEN HE'D BECOME YOUR REAL FATHER, WOULDN'T HE~?
THINKING ABOUT IT NOW, IT WAS JUST THE RAMBLING OF A DRUNK.
BUT SOMETHING ABOUT THOSE WORDS DISTURBED ME.

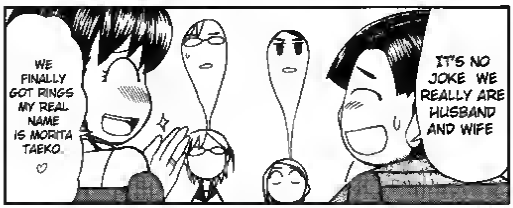
EVENTUALLY THAT FEELING I HAD WENT AWAY.
AND A LARGE MARK WAS ON THAT PERSON'S FACE.
BY THE TIME I CAME TO MY SENSES, SENSEI HAD PINNED ME DOWN.
WHENEVER I BECAME ENGROSSED IN MY WORK, THAT FEELING WOULD COME BACK TO ME, AND I WOULDN'T BE ABLE TO CONCENTRATE.
EVER SINCE THAT TIME, WHENEVER I FELT THAT EMOTION, I LET IT OUT WITH VIOLENCE.
I'VE KEPT THAT EMOTION HIDDEN INSIDE MYSELF UNTIL THIS DAY.
SFX SLAM
WHA-
WHAT IS THAT PAPER!?

WITH THIS, EVEN A MINOR LIKE TAE-CHAN CAN LEGALLY BECOME AN ADULT.
SO NOW, SHE HAS NO NEED FOR PARENTAL AUTHORITY OR A GUARDIAN.
W-WHAT IS THAT!?
WHAT ARE YOU--
YOU LOSE.
...WE'VE BEEN HAD...

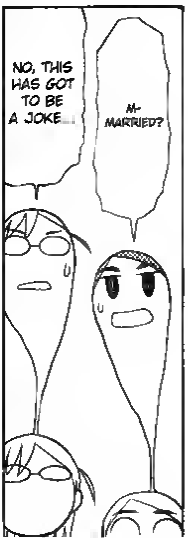

MARRIAGE LICENSE APPROVAL CERTIFICATE
婚姻届受理証明書
GOT MARRIED!!
THE TWO OF US...
Marriage License
Certificate of Approval

AND SO, THE TWO OF US...
ARE MARRIED!

!!??


WE FINALLY GOT RINGS MY REAL NAME IS MORITA TAEKO... ♡
IT'S NO JOKE WE REALLY ARE HUSBAND AND WIFE

HA, HA, HA, HA...
OH, KANAU-CHAN, YOU'RE SO PRECOCIOUS
S-SO BASICALLY, YOU TWO ARE LOVERS?


NO, THIS HAS GOT TO BE A JOKE...
M-MARRIED?

HA, HA, HA... THAT WAS THE SITUATION WE WERE FACED WITH, AND WE DIDN'T REALLY HAVE MUCH TIME TO DWELL OVER IT...
EVEN IF YOU SAY THAT, WE'RE NOT RELATED BY BLOOD.
BUT YOU'RE MARRIED...
EVEN THOUGH YOU'RE PARENT AND CHILD?

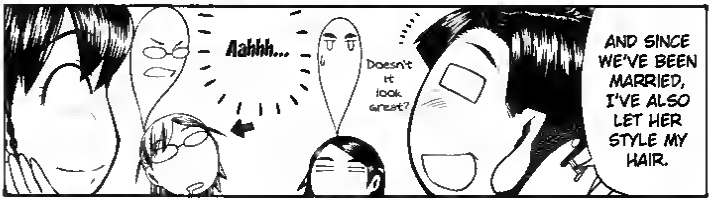
!
市民課
I'VE ALWAYS LOVED YOU. LET'S GET MARRIED, TAE-CHAN.
ONCE WE HAD CONFIRMED EACH OTHER'S FEELINGS, THAT WAS MORE THAN ENOUGH.
AH... YES...

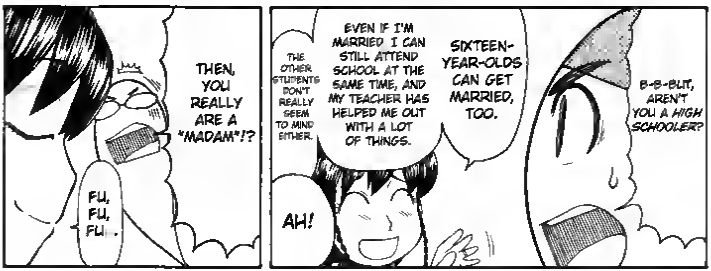
SIGN. CIVILIAN SECTION

REFERENCE ON HIKARU GENJI HTTP://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/HIKARU_GENJI

.....
IT'S JUST... I STUDIED COOKING SO MUCH THAT I GOT CARRIED AWAY, AND I SPOILED HIM.
HE WAS GOOD-LOOKING IN THE PAST!
HE'S DEFINITELY NO HIKARU GENJI
FOR THAT MATTER, NO MATTER HOW WELL OFF YOU ARE, YOU'RE WITH THIS CHUBBY OLD GUY
HA, HA, HA, WELL SAID HARUKA-KUN

TAE-CHAN'S COOKING IS JUST SO DELICIOUS.
HE'S HAPPY BEING LIKE THAT!?


Aahhh...
Doesn't it look great?
AND SINCE WE'VE BEEN MARRIED, I'VE ALSO LET HER STYLE MY HAIR.


THEN, YOU REALLY ARE A "MADAM"!?
FU, FU, FU...
THE OTHER STUDENTS DON'T REALLY SEEM TO MIND EITHER.
EVEN IF I'M MARRIED I CAN STILL ATTEND SCHOOL AT THE SAME TIME, AND MY TEACHER HAS HELPED ME OUT WITH A LOT OF THINGS.
SIXTEEN-YEAR-OLDS CAN GET MARRIED, TOO.
AH!
B-B-BUT, AREN'T YOU A HIGH SCHOOLER?

SO THAT'S WHY YOU KEPT QUIET AND ACCEPTED IT EVEN THOUGH YOU INSISTED THAT YOU WEREN'T MATURE...
WHY WASN'T SHE MORE LIVELY?
SO WHENEVER THEY REFERRED TO ME LIKE THAT, I WOULD GET EXCITED!
I COULDN'T DENY IT, ANYWAY.
THAT'S RIGHT!

HONESTLY! ALTHOUGH I NEVER CARED ABOUT IT, YOU WERE ALWAYS SO SERIOUS!
BUT I THOUGHT THIS CURRENT PROBLEM WOULD BE A GOOD TIME TO REVEAL IT.
TO BE HONEST, WE INTENDED TO KEEP THIS A SECRET UNTIL TAE-CHAN GRADUATED.
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
HUH!? AH, YEAH.
SO KANAU-KUN, WITH THIS, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE ANYTHING TO WORRY ABOUT, RIGHT?
ゴゴゴゴ
AH!
ドン
YOU PROBABLY UNDERSTAND NOW AS WELL, RIGHT, KOUTA?

I LOVE HER
EVER SINCE I CAME TO THIS PLACE AND MET HER, I'VE FELT THIS WAY
I SEE
BUT FINDING THE RIGHT TIME WAS HARD
HMM OK, I IT'S OUT TAKE IT!
THIS IS WHAT I WANTED TO TALK ABOUT AS WELL
THIS IS ABOUT THE LANDLADY, ISN'T IT?
IT'S A LONG STORY SO ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THIS?
I WORK AT A CA
THIS WOODEN BALL PREDICTED IT!
I WORK AT A KOUTA,
-AVE BEEN ASKED OUT IN A PATE BY THE LANDLADY
HA T!?
やまへ

KOUTA-SAN...
ドギ
ボよ
SE-SAN
SINCE I'M ALONE TOO, HOW ABOUT YOU JOIN ME FOR THE FESTIVAL?
SHINGO, YOU'RE SO WONDER FUL
BRUSSE IS SO JEALOUS
TO THAT DAY I FINAL GET TO GO DATE WITH T LAMILATY H FINALLY CAME
LOV

IS HE SING-ING!?
FATHER'S GONE CRAZY!
THEY SAY IT WAS IN INDIA~!!
GANDHARA~ GANDHARA~♪
HUH!? BUT, IT'S NOT LIKE I COULD HAVE KEPT QUIET ABOUT IT!
SENSE!! THIS ISN'T VERY NICE! THINK ABOUT KOUTA'S FEEL-INGS!
THIS ISN'T THE WAY YOU SHOULD END SUCH A LONG STORY!
WHAT'S WRONG, KOUTA-SAN!?
KOUTA!
FATHER, GET A HOLD OF YOUR-SELF!
KOUTA'S HP IS ZERO!
GAND-HARA!
GAND-HARA!

THE MEN WHO I THOUGHT WERE TAKESHI'S UNDERLINGS TOOK HIM AWAY.
AFTER OUR MARRIAGE WAS CONFIRMED,
LET'S TALK A LITTLE BIT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER THAT.
IT WAS FOR THAT REASON THAT I THEN BECAME HIGANSOU'S OWNER.
AND SO, HIS PLAN TO GAIN CONTROL OF HIGANSOU BECAME IMPOSSIBLE.
AFTER THAT, I HEARD FROM MITSURU THAT THOSE MEN IN BLACK WERE THE LOAN SHARKS HE DIDN'T WANT TO GET INVOLVED WITH. IN TRUTH, HE USED THE OPPORTUNITY TO PAY OFF TAKESHI'S DEBT AS A MEANS OF SMOOTHING THINGS OVER WITH THEM.
SINCE THERE WAS NO HOPE OF SAVING TAKESHI IT WAS EASY TO MERGE HIS COMPANY WITH MINE.
IF THAT'S THE CASE, THEN WHY USE US?
HUH?
WELL, I'M FREE NOW, BECAUSE I TOOK RESPONSIBILITY FOR TAKESHI'S DEBT.
IT'S BETTER THAN HANGING TAKESHI'S EMPLOYEES OUT TO DRY, ISN'T IT?
LOOK AT IT THIS WAY.
SO THAT'S WHY YOU USED US?

I'LL GIVE TAE-CHAN A HAPPY LIFE.
"I DON'T NEED THEM" IS THE SORT OF THING SOME ROMANCE MANGA AUTHOR WOULD SAY.
THAT'S THE KIND OF WORLD IN WHICH WE LIVE
SO THAT WE CAN MAKE AMENDS WITH KIMIKO
PLEASE DO.

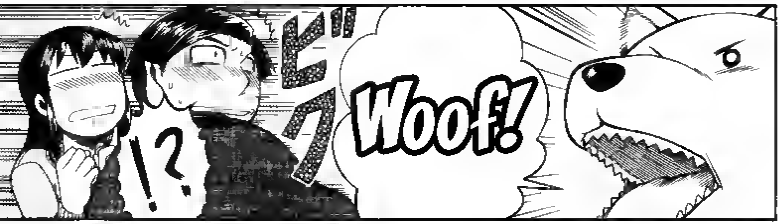
BUT I SURE DID SOMETHING HORRIBLE TO KOUTA...
COULD I HAVE EXPLAINED IT IN A WAY THAT DIDN'T HURT HIS FEELINGS...
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
AH, THATS-
...IT'S NOTHING YOU NEED TO WORRY ABOUT, TAE-CHAN
HA, HA, HA, HA...
?

FU, FU...
HA, HA, HA...
WE FINALLY SAID IT, DIDN'T WE?
YEAH, WE SURE DID...

I WANTED YOU TO GO THROUGH HIGH SCHOOL AS A NORMAL STUDENT
SO WE KEPT THIS A SECRET, BUT...
I WONDER IF IT WAS REALLY NECESSARY
THAT'S RIGHT...
THANKS TO THAT, WE HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING A MARRIED COUPLE WOULD DO FOR THREE YEARS NOW
YES, BUT WE'RE GOING TO BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.
IT'S STILL PROBABLY BEST IF WE WAIT UNTIL YOU GRADUATE-
MMH.

WAIT-- TA... TAE-CHAN...
ガク
MMH...
!!?
I DON'T WANT THAT PIECE OF PAPER TO BE THE ONLY PROOF OF OUR MARRIAGE
I WANT US TO DO AT LEAST THIS MUCH
ナロ
B-BUT WE SHOULD WAIT UNTIL YOU BECOME AN ADULT--
I AL-READY AM!
TH-THAT'S NOT WHAT I MEAN!
WHY!? YOU KISSED HER!
!!
THAT WAS BECAUSE KIMIKO-SAN FORCED ME--
じと
AL-RIGHT!
AL-RIGHT!

I UNDER-STAND, TAE-CHAN.
TA-TAE-CHAN.
...SENSEI.


ビク
!?
Woof!

AH, HA, HA!! YOU FOUND ME.
KI-KIMIKO-SAN!?
OH
SHH! THEY'RE GETTING TO THE GOOD PART, SO DON'T INTERFERE!
WAH! BE QUIET, SOU-CHAN!
Woof!
THAT VOICE...
Woof!

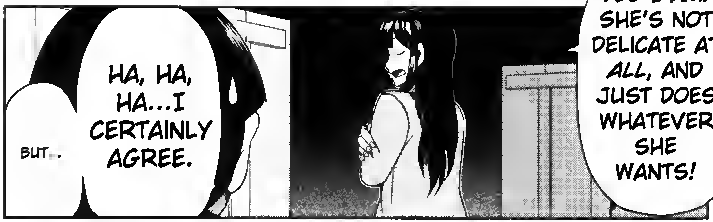
IT'S NOT MY FAULT.
YOU SHOULDN'T BE EXPOSING YOUR SHAMELESS LOVE IN A PLACE LIKE THIS
SHAMELESS?
WHY A MAID OUTFIT WITH CAT EARS?
UFUFU... SEEING YOU LIKE THAT, I TAKE IT YOU TOLD EVERYONE YOUR SECRET?
Y-YEAH. WELL, IT MORE OR LESS ENDED UP THAT WAY.
EH-HEE, HEE! I GUESS I CAN RULE OUT THAT GUY I HAD LUNCH WITH THEN
!
WHAT'S THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
NOTHING
I JUST WANTED TO KNOW WHAT WOULD HAPPEN, SO I'LL GO BACK TO WORK NOW.
AH, BY THE WAY, TAE-CHAN...
WHAT?

I'M SORRY THAT I KISSED SOUSUKE-CHAN FIRST!

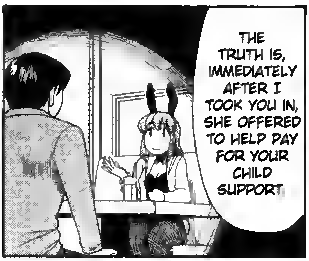
OOOHH
WHY IS SHE ALWAYS SO

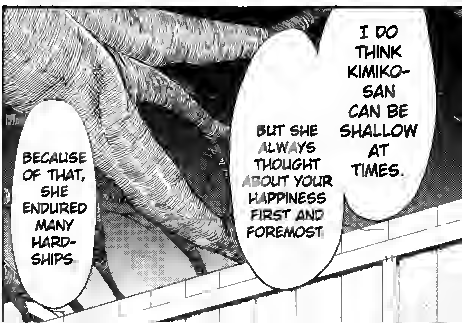
!
EVEN NOW, ARE YOU STILL UNCOM-FORTABLE AROUND KIMIKO-SAN?

JUST LEAVE ALREADY!!
AHAHA!! LIVE HAPPILY!

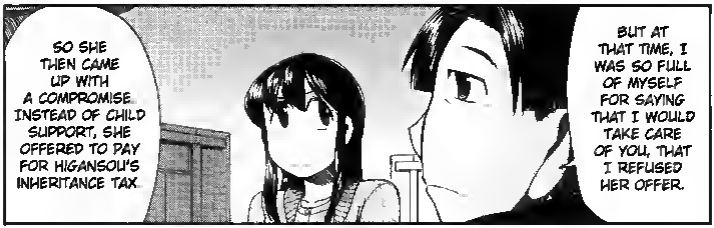

YES I AM! SHE'S NOT DELICATE AT ALL, AND JUST DOES WHATEVER SHE WANTS!
HA, HA, HA...I CERTAINLY AGREE.
BUT...

IF YOU SAY THAT, I FEEL SORRY FOR HER.
EVEN THOUGH SHE'S LIKE THAT, KIMIKO-SAN DOES LOVE YOU.
.....


THE TRUTH IS, IMMEDIATELY AFTER I TOOK YOU IN, SHE OFFERED TO HELP PAY FOR YOUR CHILD SUPPORT.

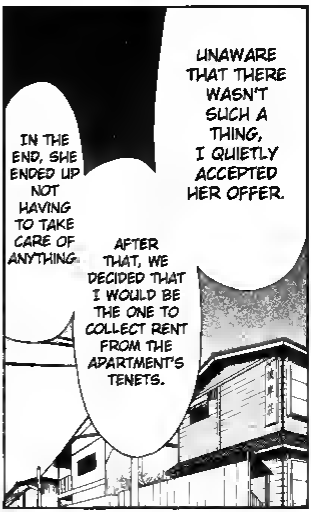

I DO THINK KIMIKO-SAN CAN BE SHALLOW AT TIMES.
BUT SHE ALWAYS THOUGHT ABOUT YOUR HAPPINESS FIRST AND FOREMOST.
BECAUSE OF THAT, SHE ENDURED MANY HARD-SHIPS.

AFTER THAT INCIDENT INVOLVING OUR MARRIAGE, I MET WITH MITSURU-SAN AND HEARD SOMETHING FROM HIM. KIMIKO-SAN HAD APPARENTLY HELPED PAY FOR YOUR CHILD SUPPORT WHEN JOTARO-SAN WAS RAISING YOU.
TO KIMIKO-SAN, WHO WAS UNABLE TO LIVE WITH YOU BECAUSE OF HER ILLNESS,
I THINK THAT WAS HER ONLY REMAINING WAY OF SHOWING HER AFFECTION AS A PARENT.


BUT AT THAT TIME, I WAS SO FULL OF MYSELF FOR SAYING THAT I WOULD TAKE CARE OF YOU, THAT I REFUSED HER OFFER.
SO SHE THEN CAME UP WITH A COMPROMISE. INSTEAD OF CHILD SUPPORT, SHE OFFERED TO PAY FOR HIGANSOU'S INHERITANCE TAX.

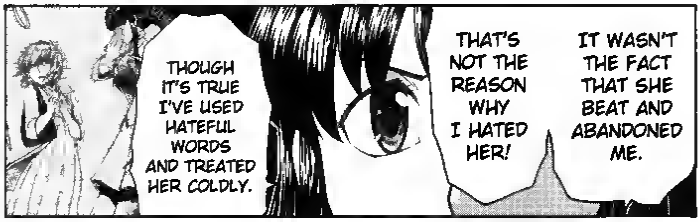
IT'S SUCH A PITIFUL STORY.
.....

CAN'T YOU JUST FORGIVE HER ALREADY?
KIMIKO-SAN HASN'T DONE ANYTHING BAD.


UNAWARE THAT THERE WASN'T SUCH A THING, I QUIETLY ACCEPTED HER OFFER.
IN THE END, SHE ENDED UP NOT HAVING TO TAKE CARE OF ANYTHING.
AFTER THAT, WE DECIDED THAT I WOULD BE THE ONE TO COLLECT RENT FROM THE APARTMENT'S TENETS.

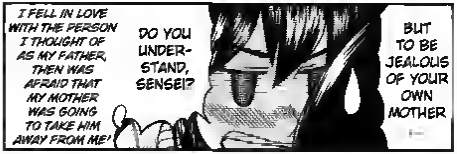
...I
TA-TAE-CHAN
...REALLY DO HATE THAT PERSON.
FROM THE RECORDS OF DEPOSITS MADE EVERY MONTH, I HAD A PRETTY GOOD IDEA OF THE KIND OF LIFE SHE LIVED.
AFTER WE GOT MARRIED, WE WERE GIVEN A BANKBOOK WITH A LARGE SUM OF MONEY.
I'VE REALIZED AT LEAST THAT MUCH, SENSEI.
TA-TAE-CHAN... THAT'S GOING TOO FAR.
BUT I RETURNED THAT BANKBOOK BACK TO HER.
HUH?

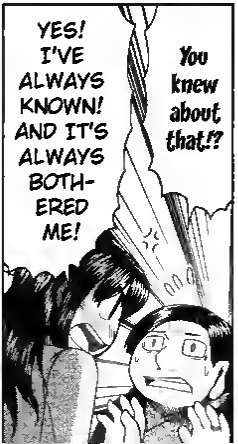
YOU'RE WRONG. I COULDN'T ACCEPT THAT MONEY, BECAUSE I UNDERSTOOD HER FEELINGS.
I THOUGHT IT WAS FINE IF SHE USED IT.
THAT MAY BE TRUE, BUT I THINK SHE SAVED IT BECAUSE SHE WAS WORRIED ABOUT YOU AS A PARENT--
YOU REALLY DON'T KNOW ANYTHING, DO YOU, SENSEI!?

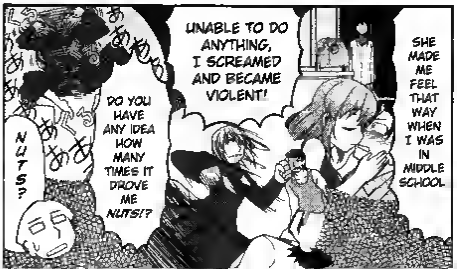

IT WASN'T THE FACT THAT SHE BEAT AND ABANDONED ME.
THAT'S NOT THE REASON WHY I HATED HER!
THOUGH IT'S TRUE I'VE USED HATEFUL WORDS AND TREATED HER COLDLY.

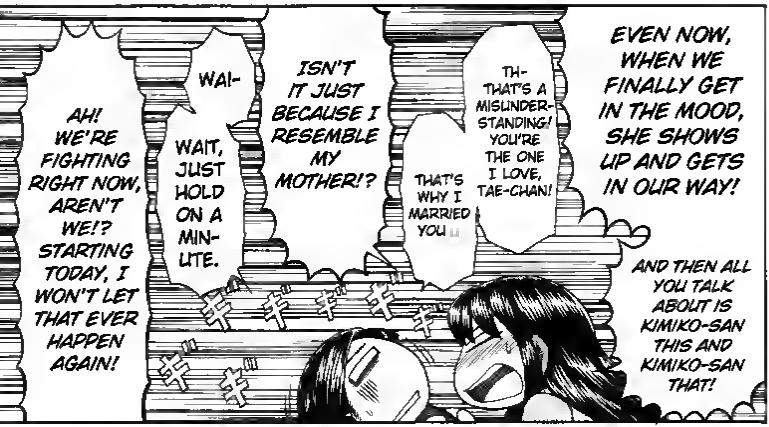
THAT WAS BECAUSE I HAD SEEN A MOVIE THAT REMINDED ME OF HER, AND I TEMPORARILY GOT CARRIED AWAY.
IN ANY CASE, NONE OF THOSE THINGS HAVE ANYTHING TO DO WITH THIS!
HUH? W-WHAT? THEN WHY?
'SIGH' DO YOU REALLY NOT UNDER-STAND!?
HUH? N-NO

I
WAS
JEAL-
OUS
!!!
MOTHER WAS ALWAYS ALL OVER YOU, AND YOU NEVER PUT UP ANY RESISTANCE! THAT'S WHY I HATE HER!
Whaa——
!?


I FELL IN LOVE WITH THE PERSON I THOUGHT OF AS MY FATHER, THEN WAS AFRAID THAT MY MOTHER WAS GOING TO TAKE HIM AWAY FROM ME!
DO YOU UNDER-STAND, SENSEI?
BUT TO BE JEALOUS OF YOUR OWN MOTHER—


You knew about that!?
YES! I'VE ALWAYS KNOWN! AND IT'S ALWAYS BOTH-ERED ME!


UNABLE TO DO ANYTHING, I SCREAMED AND BECAME VIOLENT!
SHE MADE ME FEEL THAT WAY WHEN I WAS IN MIDDLE SCHOOL
DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA HOW MANY TIMES IT DROVE ME NUTS!?
NUTS?

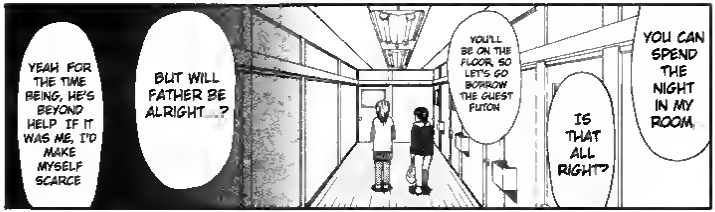

EVEN NOW, WHEN WE FINALLY GET IN THE MOOD, SHE SHOWS UP AND GETS IN OUR WAY!
AND THEN ALL YOU TALK ABOUT IS KIMIKO-SAN THIS AND KIMIKO-SAN THAT!
TH-THAT'S A MISUNDERSTANDING! YOU'RE THE ONE I LOVE, TAE-CHAN!
THAT'S WHY I MARRIED YOU...
ISN'T IT JUST BECAUSE I RESEMBLE MY MOTHER!?
WAI-
WAIT, JUST HOLD ON A MIN-UTE.
AH! WE'RE FIGHTING RIGHT NOW, AREN'T WE!? STARTING TODAY, I WON'T LET THAT EVER HAPPEN AGAIN!

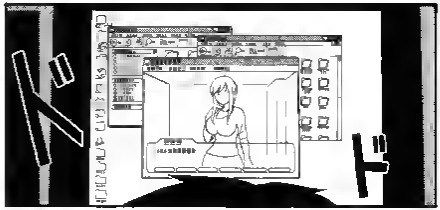
B-BUT I HAVEN'T DONE ANYTHING--
THIS IS BAD.
AT A TIME LIKE THIS, WHAT THE HECK SHOULD I...
!

THAT'S IT!
TAE-CHAN!

L-
LET'S KISS!
SMACK!!
Woof.
OH DEAR
YOU'RE THE WORST! I DON'T CARE ANY-MORE!

F-FATH--
ワイ
!
HARUKA-SAN...
LET'S LEAVE HIM ALONE FOR TONIGHT...


YOU CAN SPEND THE NIGHT IN MY ROOM.
IS THAT ALL RIGHT?
YOU'LL BE ON THE FLOOR, SO LET'S GO BORROW THE GUEST FUTON
BUT WILL FATHER BE ALRIGHT...?
YEAH FOR THE TIME BEING, HE'S BEYOND HELP. IF IT WAS ME, I'D MAKE MYSELF SCARCE

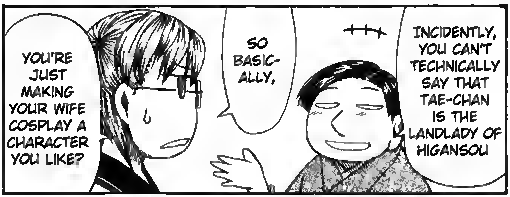


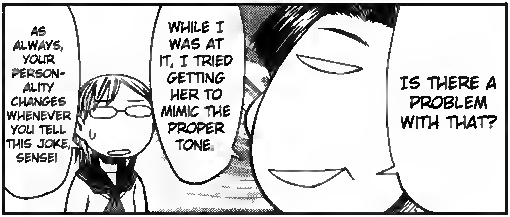
SFX. CLICK, CLICK

←Go To The 8th

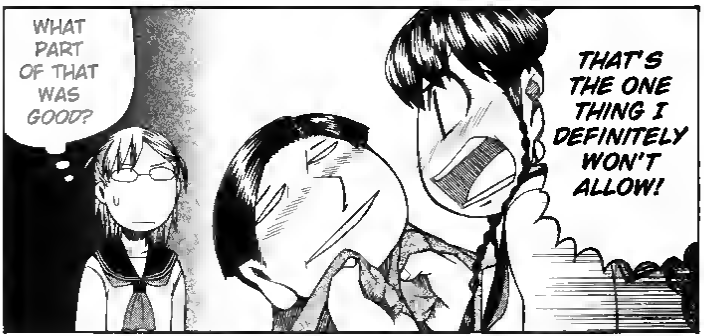
NO.43:OMAKE 01

SOUSUKE'S AMBITION IS ONE STEP CLOSER TO BECOMING A REALITY
Gasp!
INTO THE EXTREMELY JEALOUS LANDLADY!
TAEKO HAS CHANGED FROM THE LANDLADY
タタタッタッタッタ——ッ!!


YOU'RE JUST MAKING YOUR WIFE COSPLAY A CHARACTER YOU LIKE?
SO BASIC-ALLY,
INCIDENTLY, YOU CAN'T TECHNICALLY SAY THAT TAE-CHAN IS THE LANDLADY OF HIGANSOU


AS ALWAYS, YOUR PERSON-ALITY CHANGES WHENEVER YOU TELL THIS JOKE, SENSEI
WHILE I WAS AT IT, I TRIED GETTING HER TO MIMIC THE PROPER TONE.
IS THERE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?

SOUSUKE-SAN...
IS FOR ME TO DIE AN OBSCURE DEATH, THEN MY MAGNIFICENT AMBITION SHALL BE FULFILLED!
COMPLETE FORM:
DEEPLY JEALOUS, WIDOWED LANDLADY
一刻館
SIGH IKKOKU


WHAT PART OF THAT WAS GOOD?
THAT'S THE ONE THING I DEFINITELY WON'T ALLOW!

'SIGH'
YEAH, THAT'S UNDER-STAND-ABLE...
WELL, IT'S JUST... I STARTED THINKING ABOUT SENSEI'S STORY
WHAT, CAN'T SLEEP?
.....
IT IS, ISN'T IT...?
IT'S SO SURPRIS-ING
WELL, THAT'S TO BE EXPEC-TED..
BUT THINKING ABOUT IT MADE ME REALIZE SOME THINGS..
COME TO THINK OF IT, HE DID TALK ABOUT IT IN FRONT OF HER, DIDN'T HE?
I WONDER IF I CAN ASK HIM FOR AN AUTO-GRAPH?
HUH!? ...OH, THAT?
WHO WOULD HAVE EVER THOUGHT THAT SENSEI WAS CLEARASIL SHINRA SENSEI...

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